WORLD / A26

Nobel Peace winner
Ramos-Horta is new East Timor premier

SPORTS / A30

World Cup:
Germany clinches 3rd

NEWS / A2

Subic rape trial:
'Nicole' to resume testimony today

ENTERTAINMENT / A2-4

'Pinoy Wannabe' is Sam Concepcion, say Nickelodeon voters

Pope praises traditional family as God's plan

VALENCIA, SPAIN—POPE BENEDICT XVI ON Sunday praised marriage between a man and a woman as part of "a loving plan of God," as he defended the traditional family at a Mass attended by hundreds of thousands of people.

The service in a Valencia park was the highlight of a two-day trip challenging a Socialist government that had angered the Vatican by introducing such liberal reforms as gay marriage and fast-track divorce.

POPE/ A12

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, July 10, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 212 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Women leaving men in US academic dust

A QUARTER-CENTURY AFTER women became the majority on college campuses across America, men are trailing women in more than just enrollment.

Statistics of the US education department show

WOMEN/ A6

MAS-MASIPAG KAMI MAGARAL!

POPE Benedict XVI recites a noon prayer at the Plaza de la Virgen in Valencia, Spain. He arrived on a mission to glorify traditional family values in a country whose government has been sharply criticized by the Catholic Church for legalizing gay marriage. REUTERS

CBCP told to beware of GMA gifts

3 bishops slam attempts to buy off Church leaders

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS COME under fire for allegedly trying to buy off bishops as they discussed a Church stand on a renewed opposition attempt to unseat her over unresolved charges she stole the 2004 election, a participant told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The two-day annual plenary of the 124-member Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines closed yesterday. A statement on its decisions was expected today.

As the prelates sat down, Pope Benedict XVI sent a message of "spiritual closeness" that was regarded as sympathetic to the bishops who in recent weeks had come under criticism from Malacañang for allegedly violating the principle of separation of Church and state.

The rebuke was prompted by Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez signing of an opposition impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo in the House of Representatives last month.

The Pontiff's message, relayed through Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Cardinal Sodano, expressed hopes that the Philippine bishops would "give ever more effective service as ministers of the word and sacrament and better prepare the faithful ... to be the authentic witness of the Gospel."

During the plenary, some bishops were placed on the hot seat over favors some of them were reportedly receiving from the President, according to one bishop, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

According to the source, Bishop Jesse Mercado of Parañaque

CBCP/ A13

Withdrawal of support depends on AFP unity

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE VIDEO SHOWING BRIG. Gen. Danilo Lim declaring "withdrawal of support" from President Macapagal-Arroyo was planned to be broadcast on Feb. 24, 2006, the 20th anniversary of the 1986 "People Power" Revolution.

The broadcast was planned as the signal to set off a general public rising to topple the Arroyo administration, led by a messianic man on horseback. The plan misfired, and the video was not shown. It went under wraps and became a time bomb.

The bomb exploded last week when ANC of ABS-CBN showed it on public television. The blast showered a fallout that damaged both the regime and its enemies who had been plotting to overthrow it.

The video had all the props of a triumphal march of a Verdi opera. It shows Lim reading his proclamation against the backdrop of 10 or so officers, conjuring up the image of a junta—a classic setting of military cabal takeovers in Latin America in the 1970s. It was to be Lim's grand entrance as the "man of the hour."

The conspiracy had been elaborately planned, including the date of the proclamation and its sym-

WITHDRAWAL/ A21

PNP goes after financiers of Magdalo soldiers

By Luige A. del Puerto and Christine O. Avendaño

POLICE ARE BEEFING UP SECURITY around Congress ahead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona), and training their sights on the possible financiers of rebel soldiers arrested near the legislative complex, officials said yesterday.

"We have some idea but we cannot say," Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Calderon said when asked about the identities of the supposed financiers of the Magdalo group.

The military and police have raised suspicions that the captured Magdalo soldiers might be planning an attack on the Batasan building to coincide with Ms Arroyo's Sona on July 24 because they were arrested in a safe house near the legislature and allegedly had high explosives and a blueprint of the Batasan building in their possession.

The soldiers and two civilians captured with them, including a lawyer, have not been allowed to speak to media and could not be reached for comment.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the rogue soldiers had money and several mobile phones and renting an expensive house at the Fil-Invest 2 subdivision when arrested.

Esperon voiced doubts that the resources for such things came from the junior officers' pockets.

Director Vidal Querol, Metro Manila police chief, said his office had begun coordinating with the House of Representatives' sergeant-at-arms on an elaborate security plan for July 24.

Querol said he would increase the number of men to be deployed inside and outside Congress from 8,600 to about 10,000.

Police will also tap village watchmen in securing the neighborhoods around the Batasan.

Querol said he also needed to

PNP/ A8

Distressed women find comfort in city sanctuary

By Blanche S. Rivera

IN A QUIET, ALMOST OBSCURE CORNER OF the bustling mall city of Mandaluyong sits a sanctuary for women healing from madness.

Here, people with improved mental condition are not called patients but residents. They do not call this government-run facility a mental institution. It is home, a place where they are not rejected, neglected or feared.

For 18 years now, the Sanctuary Center of the Department of Social Welfare and Development has been treating women with mental illness due to trauma from physical and sexual abuse, stress from extreme poverty, loneliness and neglect, and hereditary brain and hormonal disorder.

The center serves as a halfway home for patients from the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) and those rescued from the streets of Metro Manila.

"Most people do not know how to manage someone with mental illness, even the educated ones, professionals within the family. They easily get irritated, so some tend to hurt them," resident psychologist Merlie Sanchez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Sanctuary residents are not severely ill like the ones in the NCMH. They are productive, socially functional, and are capable of activities for daily living. They can take care of themselves and attend to hygiene.

"What's important is to help them get back their ability for self-care because it's the first one that goes when they lose their mind," Sanchez said.

With only one janitor and one cook, the center's 119 residents practically handle the upkeep of the center, which has three wards, each with its own toilet and bathroom (which need immediate renovation), a clinic, common kitchen, dining and social hall, productivity room and an administrative office.

DISTRESSED / A6

MISS TOURISM QUEEN INTERNATIONAL Justine Gabionza (right) of the Philippines poses with her trophy after being crowned by last year's winner, Nikofetta Ralli (left) of Greece, in Hangzhou, China. Gabionza bested 84 other candidates from all over the world. AP

Transport firms seek GMA help on SEAG bills

By Ronnel W. Domingo
Business

LOCAL TRANSPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS were the biggest losers in last year's 23rd Southeast Asian Games as an estimated P30 million worth of receivables from government contracts related to the Games drove big dents in their coffers.

Officials of the six companies were appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to direct the SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) to pay them the full amount for services already rendered.

Reached by the INQUIRER late yesterday afternoon, Steve Hontiveros, Philsoc secretary general, said "we are not denying that we have payables" and that "we are not running away from the problem."

The claimants—who said they were now in

TRANSPORT/ A12

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains. The rest of the country will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/09/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
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Gov't still open to peace talks with Reds

But negotiations must be on gov't terms, says Gonzales

By Blanche S. Rivera and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT CLOSING ITS DOORS TO the resumption of formal peace talks with communist rebels although the latter rejected a government demand for a ceasefire as a precondition to the negotiations, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said yesterday.

Gonzales, however, said that the parameters of peace negotiations have to be changed according to government preferences because the communist insurgents have shown, by not agreeing to a ceasefire, that they are still after power, not peace.

"The government has not totally closed the doors to peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), but peace talks can only resume once their leaders show real interest in achieving peace through negotiations," Gonzales said yesterday in a statement released by his group, the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas.

He said the CPP-NDF should agree to holding negotiations within new terms that will be drawn up by government peace negotiators.

Self-exiled CPP founder Jose Maria Sison has branded as "completely absurd" President Macapagal-Arroyo's demand for a permanent ceasefire between government forces and New People's Army rebels as a precondition to the resumption of formal peace talks.

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, Sison said he had submitted again to the government the draft of a "10-point Concise Agreement for an Immediate Just Peace" that the national council of the National Democratic Front had already submitted on Aug. 27 last year.

Sison argued that the Hague Joint Declaration stipulates that "no precondition from any side shall negate the inherent character and purpose of peace negotiations."

Gonzales said some officials within government view the new peace overtures from communist leaders as only a trap, considering the communist leaders' history of advancing their armed struggle while holding peace negotiations with the government.

"The burden of showing proof of sincerity to talk peace is on the leaders of the communist movement given their deceitful conduct in the past and the timing of their peace overtures now which is suspect," the national security chief said.

He noted that communist rebels called for the talks after the intensified legal offensive against their political leaders and an all-out military campaign to decisively defeat the 37-year-old insurgency.

"That is why government has to carefully evaluate their request for peace talks. We don't want to fall into a communist trap," Gonzales said.

'Nicole' set to continue testimony

A FILIPINO WOMAN WHO HAS ACcused four US Marines of rape was set to resume her testimony today, after a breakdown delayed her return to the witness stand, prosecution lawyers said.

The 22-year-old woman, whose court-assigned pseudonym is 'Nicole,' on Thursday identified Lance Corporal Daniel Smith as the US Marine who allegedly raped her on Nov. 1.

Before she could provide details of the alleged assault, she broke down, prompting the judge to adjourn the hearing until Friday.

Prosecutors have said Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier cheered Smith on as the rape took place inside a moving van at the Subic Bay free port, a former US Naval base.

Nicole failed to appear in court on Friday. Her psychiatrist, Dr. June Pagaduan Lopez, said her client was "re-traumatized" after spending nearly three hours on the witness stand, where she broke down several times.

Lawyer Evalyn Ursua, said Sunday her client had expressed readiness to continue her testimony on Monday.

"Nicole has already recovered from the stress and fatigue, and she said that she is prepared even for the cross-examination of the defense counsels," Ursua said. AP

SENGA'S SWORD. Outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Generoso Senga receives his alumni achievement saber from the PMA on Saturday at the Mess Hall here, after the academy postponed a tribute parade for his retirement due to a raging thunderstorm here. VINCENT CABREZA

RP hasn't changed since he joined PMA, Senga laments

Vincent Cabreza,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—IN AN emotional farewell speech to Philippine Military Academy cadets on Saturday, outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said that not much had changed in the country since he first walked through the PMA doors 34 years ago.

Senga, who is retiring on July 21, said he was conscious of the fact that when he entered the PMA in 1972, it was "a period of social and political uncertainties."

Now that he is leaving the service, the country is pretty much in the same boat, he said.

Cadets were to have honored Senga with a testimonial parade but this was cancelled because of heavy rains.

In his speech, Senga emphasized that the common denominator to the military's cohesiveness was the PMA.

"In many challenging episodes of our national history, PMA [graduates] have always been called upon to provide leadership … to be a leader at whatever time, at whatever place, and at whatever may be dictated by the circumstance," he said.

PMA values

"We start to become leaders here in the PMA—leaders who can fully and truly influence and direct men, to get their willful obedience, confidence, respect and loyal cooperation in order to accomplish a mission."

He said the values PMA had taught cadets like him were about "courage that does not showcase bravery alone, but the moral substance to stand up for what is right and just."

Senga said this courage enabled PMA alumni "to acknowledge mistakes and defeat with humility and … to persevere despite fearful odds and very trying circumstances."

Out of the equation

He said men in the service must define their work by their "integrity … a quality that should always be visibly inherent in our work system, lifestyle, and reputation."

Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA superintendent, told reporters that cadets who had been the targets of recruitment by rebel soldiers "have been taken out of the equation" in the government's prosecution of senior officers, like Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, for rebellion—meaning, they would no longer be asked to submit affidavits, or testify.

Maligalig said Senga gave this assurance when he met with PMA officials.

"The cadets' testimonies are already peripheral to the evidence acquired by military intelligence," Maligalig said, referring to a video tape of Lim removing his allegiance from President Macapagal-Arroyo and the arrest of six "Magdalo" soldiers the other day.

Erap seeks court nod to file libel case

By Nelson F. Flores

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA today would ask the Sandiganbayan Special Division for permission to leave his sprawling detention center in Tanay, Rizal so he could file a P30 million libel suit against ex-beauty queen Joelle Pelaez, her mother Blanquita, the publisher, an editor and a reporter of a Manila broadsheet.

Estrada, who is facing plunder and perjury charges before the Sandiganbayan Special Division, said he would also file a case of malicious prosecution against the young Pelaez.

Former immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, a member of Estrada's legal defense team, said Friday the twin charges required the complainant to appear personally before the prosecutor to swear to the allegations he was filing.

Rodriguez said Estrada was determined to file the charges because it became clear to him that powerful individuals were using the Pelaezes to destroy his credibility and poison the minds of the Sandiganbayan justices hearing his plunder case.

Rodriguez pointed out that since May, the young Pelaez had been maliciously harping on Estrada's alleged large-scale money laundering scheme.

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DepEd to assess quake-readiness of all public school buildings

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) and other government agencies will assess the structural integrity of all public school buildings in the country to ensure the safety of students.

Some 60 buildings, mostly public elementary and high schools, are in danger of sustaining "life-threatening" damage should a major earthquake hit Metro Manila, according to the Task Force on Building Inspection of the DPWH.

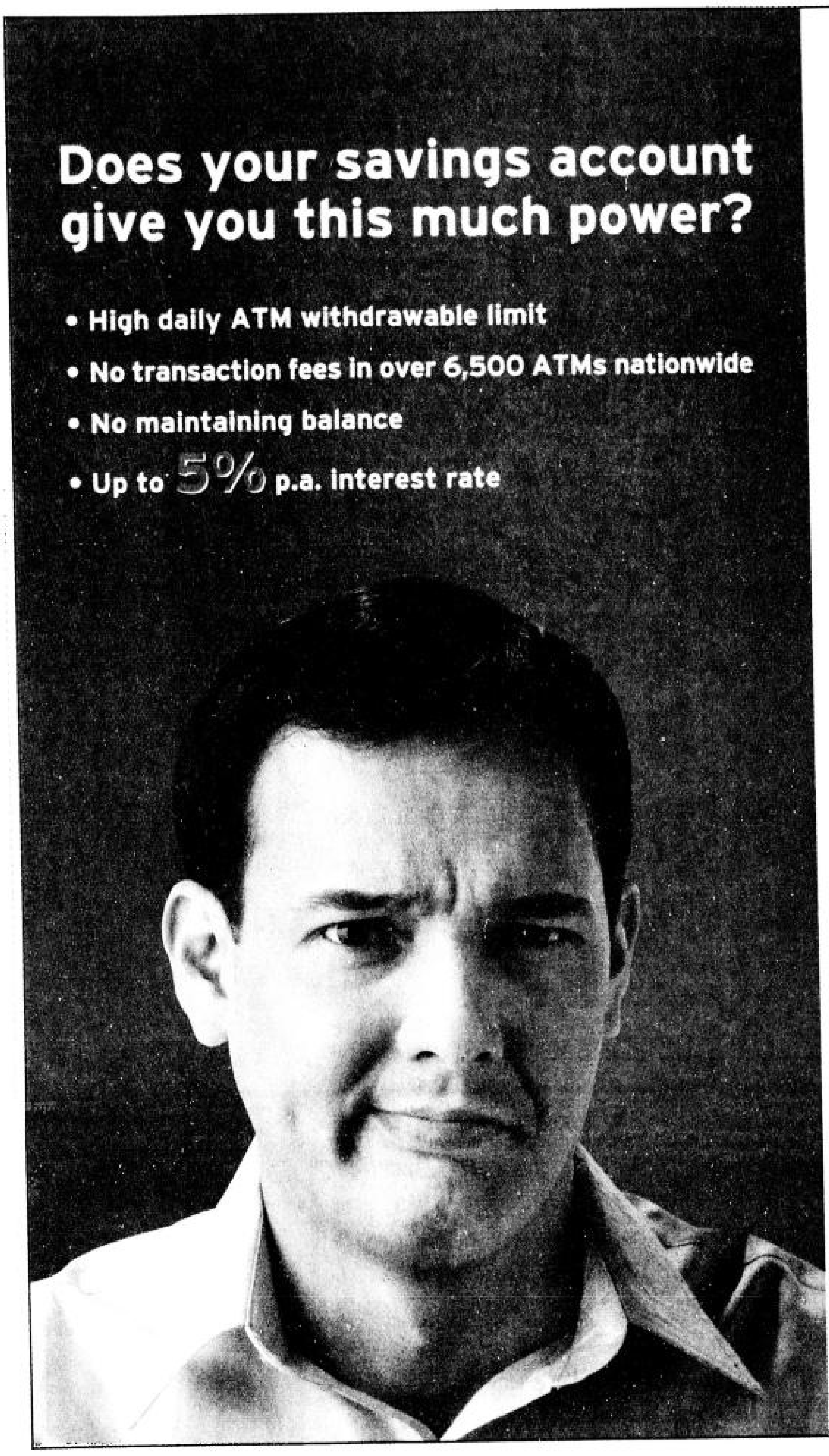
There are some 49,000 public elementary and high schools in the country.

The education department has formed Task Force Assist (Assessment of School Buildings Structural Integrity and Stability) together with the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of National Defense, the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Engineering Brigade, the Association of Structural Engineers, and the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers.

The task force aims to provide a safe, stable and secured learning environment for school children and to prevent further deterioration of school buildings.

DepEd said the task force would conduct periodic assessments and inspections of structural strength and load-bearing capacities of school buildings.

The task force has been ordered to identify school buildings that are no longer safe for occupancy. In some cases, it can recommend the demolition or major repair and rehabilitation of buildings.



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Carmi Martin

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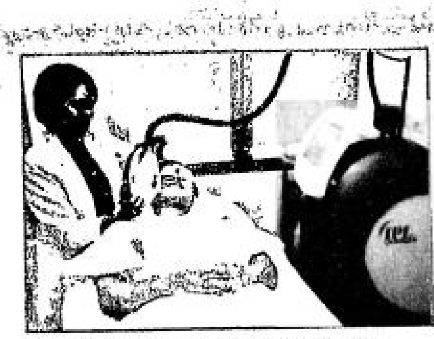

Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

Restaurateur Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez is another satisfied IPL client. She relates: "Some skin problems I had were freckles and a bit of melasma. IPL gave me a more even complexion. It helped remove the freckles and the melasma. I remember after the 3rd or 4th session, there was a big improvement. But even after the 1st session, I could already see an effect because my pores tightened. Somebody told me my skin was glowing...and this was right after an IPL treatment! The best thing about it is there's no downtime. Since I like going to the beach and going out of town, I'm always exposed to the sun. That's why I go for IPL treatments after an outing. I'm really happy with it!"

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Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez

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Pro-impeach solons won't get Palace support

By Christine O. Avendano

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO CONTINUE TO seek the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo will not be supported by the administration during the elections next year.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said yesterday it would be "very clear who will be for or against" the administration during the 2007 elections.

"There can be no gray area and this will be manifested in the national elections," Defensor said in a phone interview.

But he said what happened during last year's political crisis had been "forgotten." That's why the administration continues to reach out to erstwhile allies in Congress, he said.

Last year, 51 members of the House of Representatives, including those belonging to the administration coalition, voted for the impeachment of Ms Arroyo, while 158 voted to junk the impeachment complaint.

A new impeachment complaint has been filed against Ms Arroyo. She is accused among others of committing fraud in the 2004 presidential election.

Members of the House who will sign the new impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo are "clearly against the President and our leader" in the administration coalition, Defensor said.

"If there are candidates who will run against them, understandably we will support those who are for the President," he said.

The President's political adviser Gabriel Claudio said members of the House supporting the new impeachment case "will not be deserving or can't expect support from the administration."

"They have declared themselves as political enemies" of the administration, Claudio said in a separate phone interview.

He said members of Congress must look at the impeachment complaint "with eyes and mind that care about our country's stability and potentials for progress."

"The administration's support for candidates in the next elections will be determined by how they respond to this challenge," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, for his part, said Ms Arroyo had learned to take "in stride" challenges to her leadership such as the new impeachment complaint.

"It must be her spiritual faith that has kept her above the fray, and steadfast in steering the ship of state to calmer waters," Bunye said.

He said he agreed with the one-page newspaper advertisement put out by the Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc. appealing for sobriety "amid alarming moves and quarrels in almost all corners." The ad was signed by FPI president Jesus L. Arranza.

Noting the FPI and business sector's concern on "needless and distracting quarrels," Bunye said that poverty was the "biggest enemy of all and it is to its obliteration that we must all come together as Filipinos regardless of partisan inclinations."

Oil firms hike prices by 50c/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS GAVE A week's respite to consumers, only to again raise beginning yesterday the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter and of liquefied petroleum gas by 56 centavos per kilogram.

Chevron Philippines Inc. was the first to hike prices, at 12:01 a.m. yesterday. Refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. followed suit at 6 a.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp., Flying V and Seaoil Petroleum Corp. adjusted prices upwards at 12:01 a.m. today. Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. were also poised to raise prices at 6 a.m. and 12 noon today, respectively.

Oil firms justified the increases by calling attention to the increase in prices of crude and refined petroleum products in the world market and the reinstatement of the 3-percent tariff on crude and finished product imports.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude jumped to an average of $68.78 a barrel as of July 5, from $65.22 a barrel in June.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also increased.

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- **Typhoid Fever** down by **42.9%**

(Refer to the table)

"As part of our pledge to eradicate extreme poverty and to further achieve national development, we are addressing illnesses and deaths due to infectious diseases. Through the DOH, we have brought down number of certain infectious diseases since January to June this year."

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY REPORT
Cases of Infectious Diseases
2005 vs 2006 (week ended June 16)

Disease	Jan-Jun 2005	Jan-Jun 2006	% Reduction/Increase
Dengue	10,282	4,992	↓ 51.4
Malaria	1,165	334	↓ 71.3
Meningococcemia	353	41	↓ 88.4
Leptospirosis	89	171	↑ 47.9*
Typhoid Fever	212	121	↓ 42.9
Cholera	20	15	↓ 25
Rabies	121	65	↓ 46.3
Non-Neonatal Tetanus	480	435	↓ 9.4
Hepatitis A	96	92	↓ 4.2
Measles	110	16	↓ 85.5
Neonatal Tetanus	101	21	↓ 79.2
Hepatitis B	221	118	↓ 46.6
Diphtheria	34	22	↓ 35.3
Pertussis	15	18	↑ 16.7*
Total	13,299	6,461	↓ 51.4

*increase cases

*"Under the **Fourmula 1** Framework of the DOH, we are currently working to obtain more investments in health to further lower the number of cases and achieve disease-free zones."*

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A. DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
DIPLOMA IN OFFICE MANAGEMENT

- CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION IN BUSINESS
  July 15, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM-5:00 PM
- BUSINESS WORK ETHICS, WORK ATTITUDES AND PROFESSIONALISM ON THE JOB
  July 22, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING
  July 29, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- NEGOTIATION SKILLS
  August 5, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

B. REGULAR PROGRAMS

- ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS
  July 15 - August 12, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
- SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING
  July 17 - 28, 2006 M-W-F 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- SMART TECHNIQUES FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION (ORAL and WRITTEN)
  July 17 - 28, 2006 M-W-F 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- LAW FOR NON-LAWYERS
  July 15 - 29, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- MATERIALS AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT
  July 22 - August 5, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- WRITING THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
  July 15, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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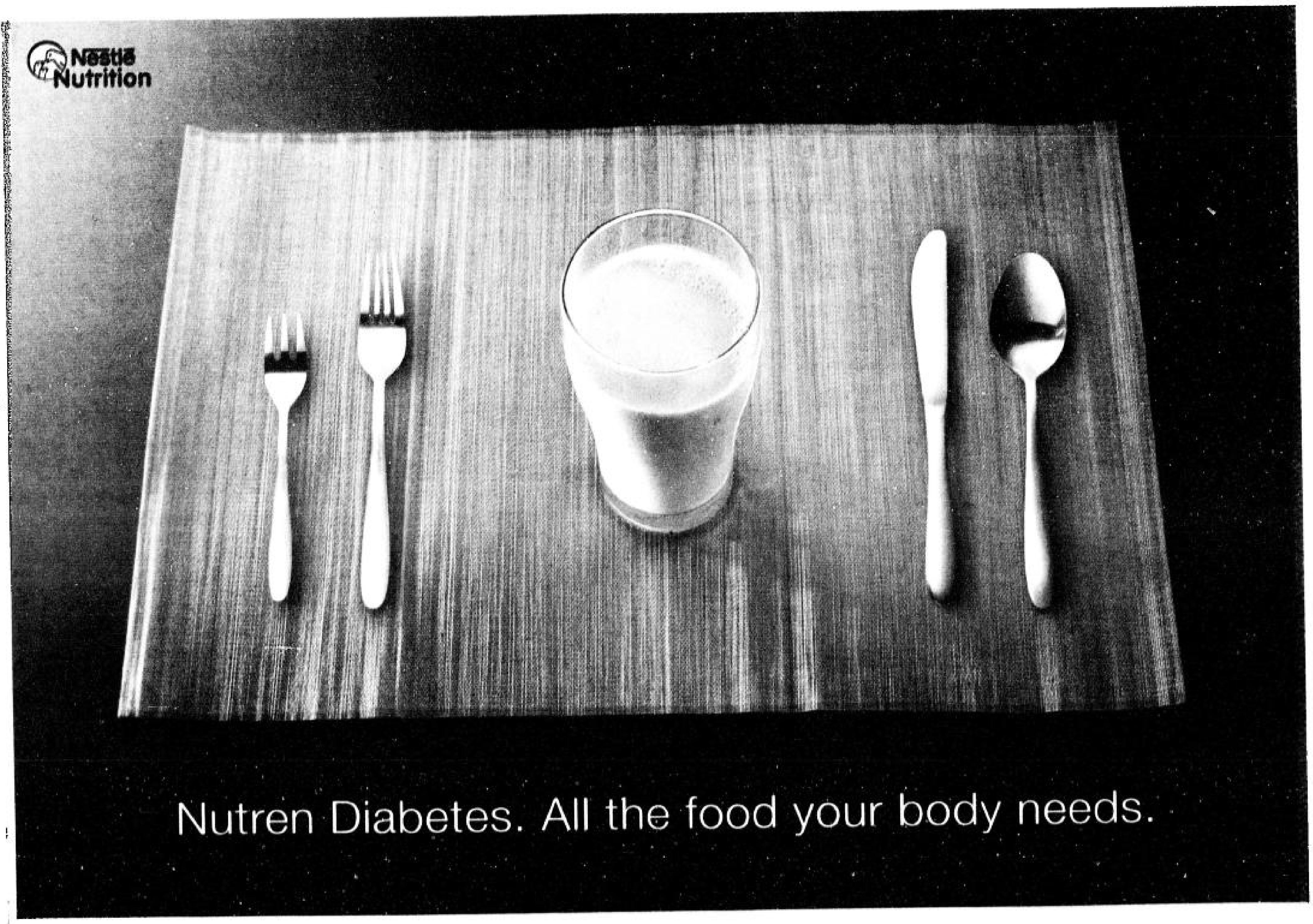

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Kidnap victim rescued

COTABATO CITY—AN 11-year-old boy who was kidnapped in Parang, Maguindanao was rescued early yesterday, local officials said.

Parang Mayor Talib Abo said he outsmarted the kidnappers by making it appear that he had ransom money and that a payoff was set in Barangay Balut in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

"There was no ransom," Abo told radio station dxMS, adding that the victim was rescued.

"When the kidnappers called up that they were ready to return the boy in exchange for the ransom, I told them the money was ready," Abo recalled.

When the place was set for the payoff, Abo sent policemen, soldiers and civilian volunteers. Upon reaching portions of the highway in Barangay Balut, they saw the boy waiting by the roadside at around 1 a.m.

When the kidnappers saw several vehicles with police and soldiers, they fled, leaving the boy.

The kidnappers had demanded a ransom of P10 million but lowered the amount to about P5 million. The victim's family, who owns hardware stores in Parang, had insisted that they could not afford to give the money since it was barely a year ago when they lost another child to dengue.

The boy was taken by three gunmen who barged into his classroom at 2 p.m. on June 23.

Teachers and school officials tried but failed to stop the kidnappers. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Distressed women find comfort in city sanctuary

From page A1

Supervised by their house parents, residents cook, clean the house, do the laundry, and keep the place a cozy shelter, surrounded by trees and featuring a gazebo as their resting area.

"Many of them are mothers, so they know house chores. They did not need much training from us in doing their chores," social worker Remedios Eripol said.

The residents stay at the center until the DSWD can trace their relatives and assure them that the relatives are willing to take them back.

The Sanctuary Center provides all the medicines needed by the residents, including vitamins, antipsychosis, tuberculosis and hypertension drugs, as transferees from the NCMH usually have tuberculosis and other respiratory problems.

The center has no problems securing these drugs. As an accredited donee of United Laboratories, the center receives P20,000 worth of medicines every month.

While it is difficult to trace the causes of mental illnesses of the residents, most of them appear to have the disorder since they were children.

OFWs

About 2 percent were sexually abused while others were physically hurt or driven away by their own kin. Some are former overseas Filipino workers, who have weak coping mechanisms and ended up mentally ill when they returned to the country.

Rhodora, who was sexually abused by her father when she was 9 years old, spent four years in the Sanctuary Center before she was reunited with her uncle in Bulacan.

Her uncle had spent for her treatment in the past, but brought her to the government facility when he could no longer afford the cost of medication and treatment.

A graduate of medical technology, Rhodora had worked in Saudi Arabia and had a daughter, who used to visit her at the center until the daughter was adopted. Rhodora suffered a relapse because of the separation from her daughter but is fine now in the company of her relatives.

Acceptance

The Sanctuary Center started out with 145 residents this year. Twenty-eight have already been discharged and brought to their relatives from January to June.

"We don't give them back unless there is guaranteed acceptance from the families because if not, then they would end up again in the streets and back here," Sanchez said.

The DSWD also has to assess whether a family has the capacity to provide the medication and other needs of a resident before reintegration to avoid a relapse.

Sadly, many families tend to refuse this chance for reunion with their lost members. Some are too poor or too busy to take care of people with mental condition.

Another sexually abused resident, Cielo, finished journalism in a university in Manila. She was molested by her stepfather, but her mother had refused to believe her and even accused her of seducing the stepfather.

This could have been a precipitating factor in her mental breakdown, Sanchez said. The DSWD is still tracing Cielo's other relatives.

Emotional support

Cherry, whose relatives in Quezon had expressed willingness to take her back, has refused to leave the center. She does not even want to go out to the mall with social workers for birthday treats.

"Many of them do not want to leave the Sanctuary anymore because they think we won't bring them back here. They don't want to experience the same rejection they suffered in the past. The social stigma does not go away," Sanchez said.

She said emotional support was the "No. 1 factor" in the healing of the women.

"It's easy to buy the medicines, but you cannot buy the emotional support. That's the most important," she said.

Women leaving men in US academic dust

From page A1

that men, whatever their race or socioeconomic group, are less likely than women to get bachelor's degrees—and among those who do, fewer complete their degrees in four or five years.

Men also get worse grades than women, according to the statistics.

And in two national studies, college men reported that they studied less and socialized more than their female classmates.

Small wonder, then, women are walking off with a disproportionate share of the honors degrees—not only at elite institutions like Harvard, small liberal arts colleges like Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, but also at huge public universities like the University of Wisconsin and the UCLA, and smaller ones like the Florida Atlantic University.

Although men are going to college in greater numbers and are more likely to graduate than two decades ago, they now make up only 42 percent of the nation's college students.

'Much, much better'

And with sex discrimination fading and their job opportunities widening, women are coming on much stronger.

"The boys are about where they were 30 years ago, but the girls are just on a tear, doing much, much better," said Tom Mortenson, a scholar at the Pell Institute for Study of Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington.

Faced with applications and enrollment numbers that tilt toward women, some selective private colleges are giving men a slight boost in admissions.

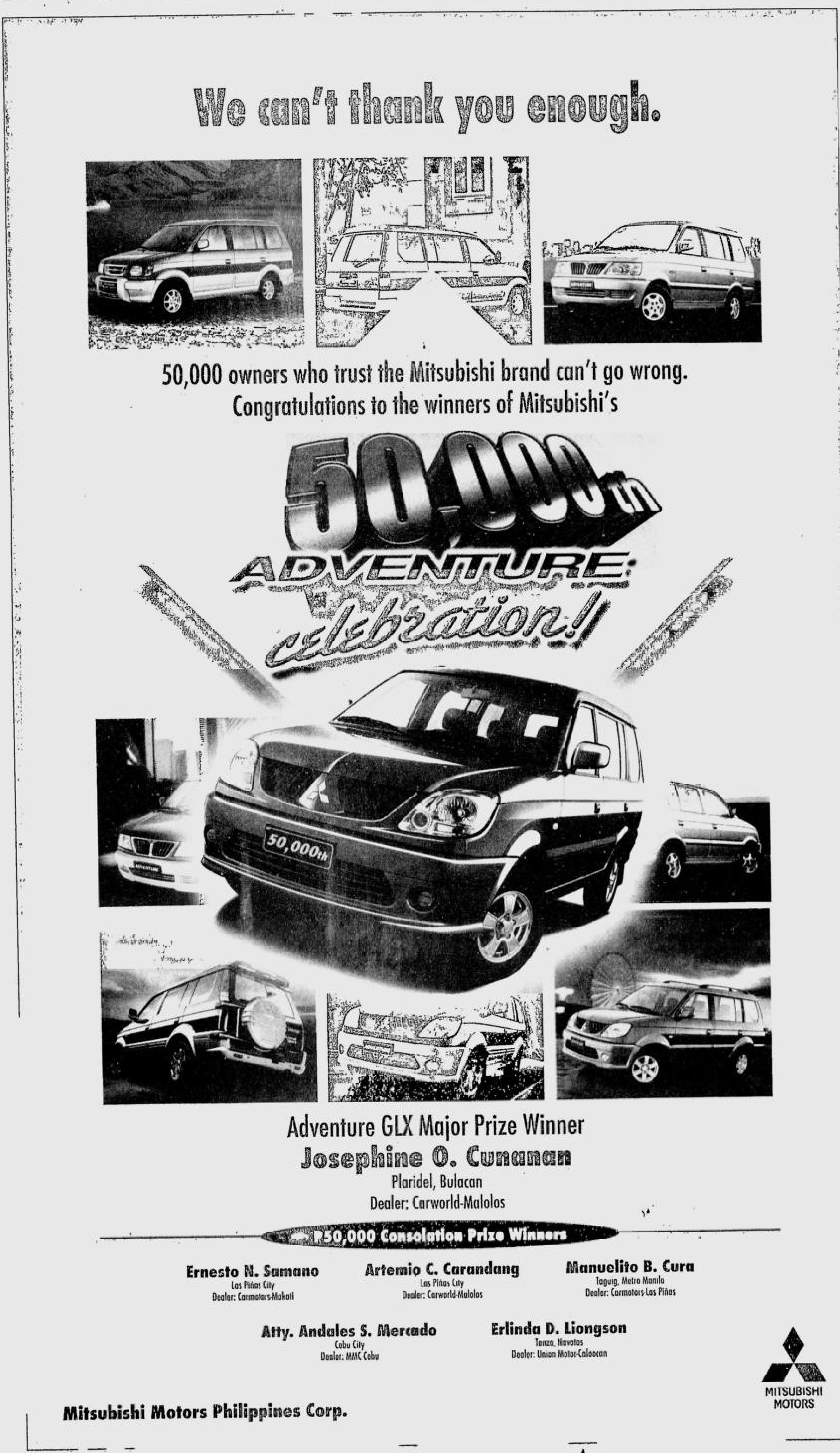
On other campuses, female predominance is becoming noticeable in the female authors added to the reading lists and the diminished dating scene.

Professors interviewed on several campuses say that in their experience, men seem to cluster in a disproportionate share at both ends of the spectrum—students who are the most brilliantly creative, and students who cannot keep up.

Women now make up 58 percent of those enrolled in two- and four-year colleges and are, overall, the majority in graduate schools and professional schools too.

Most institutions of higher learning, except engineering schools, now have a female edge, with many small liberal arts colleges and huge public universities alike hovering near the 60-40 ratio.

In dozens of interviews on three campuses—Dickinson College, American University and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro—male and female students alike agreed that the slackers in their midst were mostly male, and that the fireballs were mostly female. *New York Times News Service*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PNP goes after financiers of Magdalo soldiers

From page A1

see the Batasan blueprints seized from the soldiers so he could make further adjustments, which may include changes in the location of "control points" leading to the Batasan.

"I cannot minimize (the importance) of the security of the Sona," he said.

Querol said those attending the Sona would have to pass through "more aggressive frisking."

Although the military and police would not categorically say the Magdalo soldiers were planning an attack on Congress, Calderon said there were "indications" of it.

"There were about eight blueprints, one for each building in the Congress, and especially (one) on the (session) hall," he said. "We recovered high explosives that were ready for use. There were detonating cords. We also considered the proximity of Fil-Invest 2 to Congress," Calderon said.

"There are already indications they will conduct some destabilization (moves), to include the Sona," he said.

Initial lead

Esperon said the military was working on the documents taken from the Magdalo soldiers to try and confirm their plans.

"Our initial lead (is the presence) of the blueprint of Batasan," Esperon said, stressing the need to prepare for contingencies.

"They had money, many cell phones, and were renting an expensive house. Could the (resources for these) have come from them?" he asked.

Esperon reiterated that detained First Lt. Lawrence San Juan had been cooperating with the authorities and said the Army was ready to present him to the public.

Charges filed

The junior officer might name his group's civilian backers, he said.

Police have filed charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives against the six Magdalo soldiers and two civilians, including lawyer Christopher Belmonte, who was also charged with obstruction of justice for harboring fugitives and direct assault, said PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr.

"Document analysis and intelligence reports point to Belmonte as the conduit of the leftist organization with the ultrarightist Magdalo in this tactical alliance to advance the armed revolution and bring down the Arroyo administration," Pagdilao said.

Other targets

The President's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, said he had received information as early as last month that rightist elements allegedly planned to bomb the Batasan and Sandiganbayan buildings and business centers, such as the Philippine Stock Exchange, while Ms Arroyo was on a trip to Europe.

"The report was that while the President was out of the country, these elements will try to create a situation of destabilization and terror," Defensor said yesterday in a phone interview.

He said he got the information from a "reliable source of the administration" and relayed this to Ms Arroyo who then told him to inform Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and the Cabinet security cluster.

Senators doubtful

Defensor said that according to the information he got, the alleged plan to bomb these buildings were to be carried out by "people known to be professional soldiers." He declined to identify them.

Some senators voiced doubts that the Batasan blueprint was proof of a plot to bomb the complex.

"Having a sketch of the Batasan and plotting to bomb it while the President delivers the Sona are as distinct as the word 'integrity' to her and her administration," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

Sen. Ramon Magsasay Jr. said such a plot, if true, was a "serious concern" but he doubted if the Magdalo would mount such an attack.

"The Magdalo wants public support for its objective. They will not inflict damage or danger to thousands of innocent civilians in Batasan. That's my own observation," Magsaysay said. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

Honasan still a cause for concern, says Senga

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

JOLO, SULU—OUTGOING ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said yesterday the threat of a coup had ebbed with the capture of six Magdalo soldiers, but fugitive former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan remained a source of concern.

"I think (the threat) has greatly diminished," Senga told reporters during a farewell visit to the 104th Infantry Brigade in Camp Bautista here. "It's almost gone (although) in any organization there (will always be) issues. It's inherent. You can't satisfy everybody 100 percent."

But Senga said Honasan's remaining at large "is still a cause for concern."

Senga, who is retiring on July 21, made a round of farewell visits to troops in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Basilan.

Honasan went into hiding shortly after the failed Feb. 24 coup and after a Makati court issued an arrest warrant for his alleged participation in the July 27, 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

The former Army colonel has a P5-million bounty for his capture.

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile believed military and police agents would have a tough time tracking down Honasan and said they'd probably think twice about putting the cuffs on him. *With a report from TJ Burgonio in Manila*

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Families of slain farmers troop to Malacañang

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE FAMILIES OF SLAIN farmer leaders from Negros Occidental, one of the country's most problematic agrarian reform areas, are set to meet with Department of Agrarian Reform officials, the military and the police in Malacañang today.

Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor had asked to meet with leaders of the Task Force Mapalad (TFM), a group which is organizing the beneficiaries of farmers who died in land-reform related incidents in Negros.

TFM leaders—Rico Adeva, Mario Domingo and Wilfredo Cornea—were killed this year allegedly by their landlords' goons. Adeva was killed in April, Domingo in May and Cornea in June.

"We shall discuss the investigation of agrarian-related killings, peace and order in the affected areas, and the proposed indemnification/granting of financial support to the families of the victims," Defensor said in the notice of meeting issued to the TFM on July 5.

Some 50 farmers from Negros, most of them relatives of the slain agrarian reform leaders started their camp-out on Friday outside the DAR office in Quezon City.

PSG: Ambush incident won't affect GMA trips

By Christine O. Avendano

PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY Group chief Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit yesterday said that Saturday's ambush incident would not affect President Macapagal-Arroyo's other scheduled visits to the provinces.

Bangit said the PSG in coordination with the military was prepared for "worse case scenarios."

On Saturday, an undetermined number of communist rebels fired on a truckload of soldiers from the Army's 28th Infantry Battalion that helped secure the President as they were traversing Barangay Sibunga in Nabunturan town in Compostela Valley on their way back to their camp. No one was hurt.

Bangit said the ambush incident was apparently intended more by the rebels to "instill fear" rather than cause damage because the rebels fled immediately after strafing the Army truck.

"It's nothing but a cowardly act," Bangit said in a phone interview.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday that he had reminded the President before about the danger of entering areas known to be strongholds of the communist New People's Army but the chief executive was not inclined to slinker in fear.

Gonzalez said he had advised the President before about making such trips to NPA-infested areas.

Gonzalez said he had warned last year Ms Arroyo about a visit she was making in Samar, where NPA rebels are known to be very active.

But he said President Arroyo told him that if she couldn't go there, how could she expect the military to venture there as well.

The President, he opined, wants to "lead the way" and show that she was not scared.

- Ms Arroyo's visit to Compostella Valley the other day came at a time when she had declared a renewed all-out war against communist rebels. The President had set aside P1 billion in funds for the military and the police to crush the communist insurgency in two to three years.

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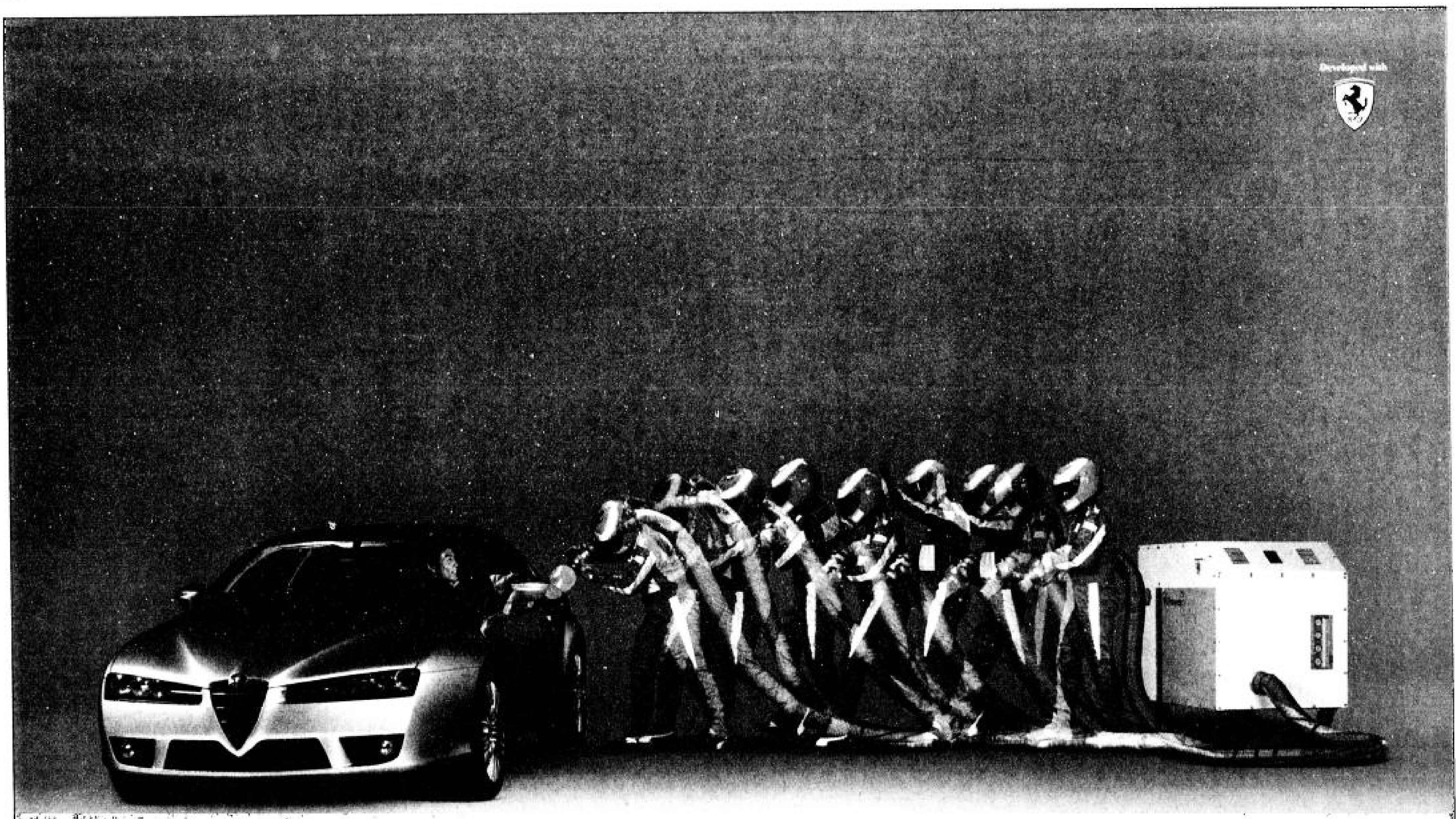

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Jailed Oakwood officers mum on arrests

By Nikko Dizon

THE JUNIOR MILITARY OFFICERS DEtained for allegedly leading the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny have kept mum on the recent arrest of their comrades.

"They'd rather not comment, but they did notice a few things," a source close to the Magdalo group told the Inquirer yesterday.

When the Magdalo officers were arrested on Friday, they should not have been treated like criminals, or even terrorists, the source said.

And despite being on the run for six months, the fugitives were looking good. Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and 1st Lieutenants Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bumidang looked like "members of a rock band" since they all sported long hair and goatees.

"*Hindi raw* Magdalo *yung nahuli kundi mga* rockers (They arrested rockers, not members of Magdalo)," the source said, laughing.

No shooting

The source, who requested anonymity, said the Magdalo officers "naturally felt sorry" for their arrested comrades, especially when they learned how the raid in the Quezon City hideout was carried out.

"*Pagbali-baliktarin man ang mundo*(You can turn the world upside-down), they are still military officers on active duty. *Kinausap man lang sana sila*(They should have at least talked to them)," the source said.

Unless a Magdalo soldier was fired upon first, he would never shoot a fellow member of the Armed Forces, or for that matter, a member of the Philippine National Police (PNP), the source stressed.

"*Sabi nila, hindi nila kayang putukan ang mismong mga taong pinaglalaban nila*(They said they could never shoot the people they were defending). Not even in their dreams will they do that," the source said.

Planted explosives?

"They said they went to Oakwood precisely because they were fighting for the welfare of the military and the police. That is the essence of their fight. *Kaya nga rin sila bumaba nung* Oakwood *kasi na*-realize *nila na hindi nila kayang makipag-barilan sa kapwa nila sundalo* (That's why they decided to surrender because they realized they could not shoot a fellow soldier)," the source added.

Although the junior officers are now considered rebels, having broken the military chain of command, they certainly are not terrorists.

"*Para silang mga terrorista nung hinuli. Hindi kami ganun*(We were treated like terrorists. But we're not terrorists)," the source said, quoting a Magdalo officer.

The explosives found in the hideout could have even been planted, the source added.

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China offers to build 1 M low-cost houses

By Michael Lim Ubac

CHINA HAS PLEDGED to build one million mass-housing units for poor Filipinos and erect an industrial park in Clark Field for large- and medium-size factories, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia, who arrived in Manila on Saturday.

The Speaker led a delegation of congressional and economic managers on a 10-day, 10-city tour of China to drum up support for the low-cost housing program and the proposed industrial park.

Guangdong and Shandong, ranking first and second respectively in China's top gross domestic product (GDP) list, showed interest in financing part of the 1 million low-cost houses in the Philippines. Each province has a population of more than 90 million.

"Two of China's biggest provinces have shown interest in taking part in the construction of pre-fabricated housing factories in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao," said De Venecia.

The proposed housing units would be "anti-typhoon, anti-earthquake and anti-termite" and materials would cost much less than those imported from Europe and the United States, he said.

De Venecia said the top leaders of Guangdong and Shandong also agreed to support large-scale Philippine fisheries programs which include setting up 2,000 fish cages in the sea and the rehabilitation of 250,000 hectares of coastal and inland fishponds.

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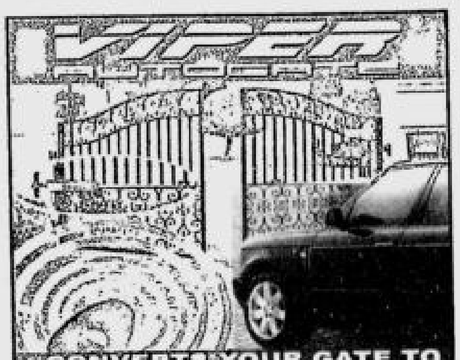

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Pope praises traditional family as God's plan

From page A1

The visit also threw into focus the Church's opposition to Europe's long slide into secularism.

Hundreds of thousands cheered the Pope's remarks at the family rally in Valencia. By contrast, crowds booed and whistled Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, whose government has pushed through various laws to prize away the Church's traditional grip on Spanish society.

The German-born Pope, wearing green vestments and a gold miter, stressed that the family was "founded on indissoluble marriage between a man and a woman."

Benedict said every family had its origin in God and that "at the origin of every human being there is not something haphazard or chance, but a loving plan of God."

Many of the pilgrims wore hats, T-shirts and backpacks with the Vatican's yellow and white colors and had camped overnight in a parkland area close to the papal altar.

Benedict celebrated Mass with the city's most famous and contested relic, a chalice some venerate as the cup Jesus used at the Last Supper.

Holy Grail

The Holy Chalice, sometimes also called the Holy Grail, is a small agate bowl that tradition says could be the original cup used on the night before Christ was crucified.

The Valencia cup is said to have been brought to Rome after Jesus' resurrection to be looked after by the popes. Pope Sixtus II then gave the cup to the deacon of Saint Lawrence, who brought it home to Huesca, northern Spain.

It was hidden during various wars but has mostly been kept in the cathedral of Valencia since the mid-15th century.

The cup's authenticity has been doubted by many historians. Some say it may just be one of the many fake relics that surfaced in the Middle Ages. Others say Jesus would have used a plain cup, probably made of clay, at the Last Supper.

A million crowd

Local police put the number that turned out in person to watch the Pope at 1 million.

Benedict's 26-hour trip was intended to address a worldwide church meeting on the family and support traditional values in Spain.

Zapatero had a 15-minute meeting with Benedict on Saturday afternoon but he did not attend Sunday's Mass. The service was attended by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

Zapatero was booed by neighborhood residents when he arrived to meet Benedict.

Drifting from Church

The Vatican has warned that the family is under threat from such liberal reforms as gay marriage, which was recently legalized in Spain, as well as in the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada.

Many Spaniards have drifted away from the Church in the three decades since the fall of the Gen. Francisco Franco dictatorship, under which it enjoyed special privileges.

Spain has passed from being a bastion of Roman Catholicism to a predominantly lay society in less than a generation. Statistics show that while 80 percent of Spaniards still call themselves Catholics, only 42 percent believe in God and 20 percent go to Mass.

Benedict, visiting Valencia's 17th century cathedral, told his bishops he was aware of the secular drift in a country with "deep Christian roots" and urged them to "keep alive and vigorous this spirit, which has accompanied the life of Spaniards throughout their history."

Benedict addressed gay marriage before even getting off the plane.

"According to human nature, it is man and woman who are made for each other and to give humanity a future," he told reporters. "The Church can't accept certain things. At the same time, it wants to help people and respect them."

Thousands of police provided security, which included sharpshooters atop buildings and Awacs planes from Nato patrolling the skies.

Benedict's comments on the trip seemed aimed at expressing the Church's view that marriage must be between a man and a woman without outright condemnation, but with absolute clarity.

"Let's not start with the negative," he told reporters when asked about how Church teaching squared with Spain's law allowing same-sex marriage.

"It's true that there are problems and things that Christian life says no to," he said. "We want to make people understand that according to human nature it is a man and a woman who are made for each other and made to give humanity a future."

Spain legalized same-sex marriages last year and since then about 4,500 couples have wed, according to gay group FELGT.

Local media said the Pope did not bring up the issue in a brief audience with Zapatero and instead focused on world problems.

While pilgrims lined Valencia's streets waving yellow and white Vatican flags and cheering, not everybody was so happy.

A group of young people stripped bare and bicycled through the town brandishing placards saying, "You're not welcome here." *Reports from AP, Reuters, New York Times News Service*

POPE Benedict XVI watche

Transport firms seek GMA help on ₱30-M SEAG bills

From page A1

financial distress—include Budget Rent A Car, Carlines Transportation, Circle Transport, JT Lakbay Services, WLM Transpacific, and G & S Transport Corp. for the Avis brand.

Quincy Buenaflor, a manager of Budget Rent A Car, said the firms should have been paid in full immediately after the SEA Games ended in December last year, but government agencies failed to do so.

"Our services include the use of [chauffeured] cars, vans, buses and even trucks that moved sports officials, participating athletes, dignitaries and equipment to and from various venues during the games," Buenaflor explained.

He added that the firms, being competitors, did not reveal among themselves exactly how much the government owed them, but they agreed it was more or less P30 million.

Down payment

Buenaflor said the firms' respective contracts with Philsoc—a joint effort between the private-sector Philippine Olympic Committee and the Office of the President—signed by its chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., provided for a down payment or half of what the parties estimated would be the eventual cost.

"Philsoc was able to provide the initial payments, but the actual costs were double the original estimates," he said.

Further, Buenaflor said Philsoc had ceased to exist since the Games were over.

"We have been told to pursue our concerns with the Philippine Sports Commission, but the PSC has been vague about whether the accounts would be settled," he said.

But Hontiveros said the PSC was "preparing to pay" and that the papers were still pending at the Commission on Audit.

Hard to collect

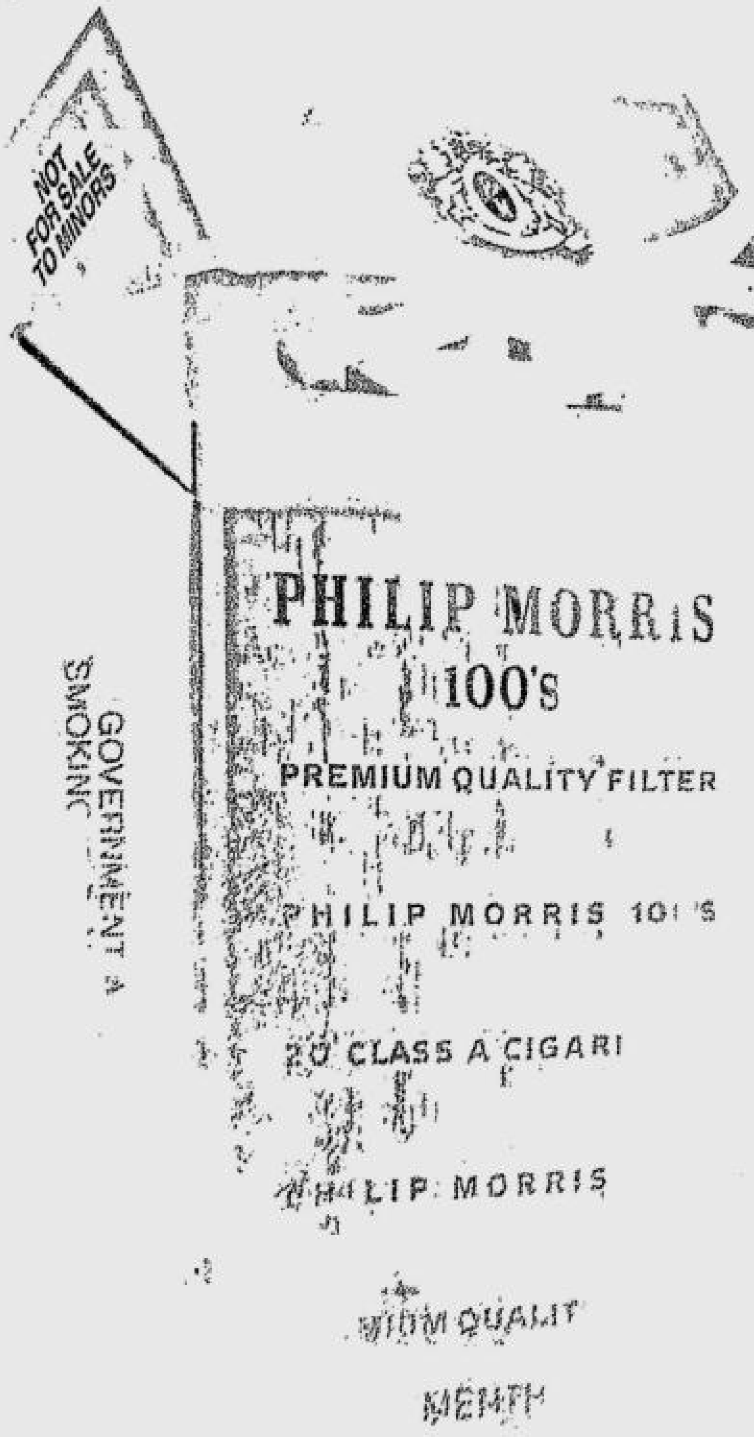
"We are getting more worried, with the approach of the 15th Asian Games [that would be held in Qatar in December]. If it is so hard to collect now, it will probably be harder at [another round of] heavy expenses for the government," Buenaflor said.

In a prepared statement, the six firms said that they should be paid in full because full services had been rendered and that they were in financial distress because they had spent for drivers services, fuel, toll and parking fees and other costs involved in servicing the participants of the games.

"Despite our apprehension, we still served the SEA Games requirement to uplift our country's tourism," they said.

"[We] came up with [our] own dispatching system despite Philsoc's being disorganized, to ensure that all participants would be provided with safe, reliable and efficient transportation."

They added that their predicament would make them more or less inclined to "deny future requests by government organizations" for their services. *With a report from Musong Castillo*



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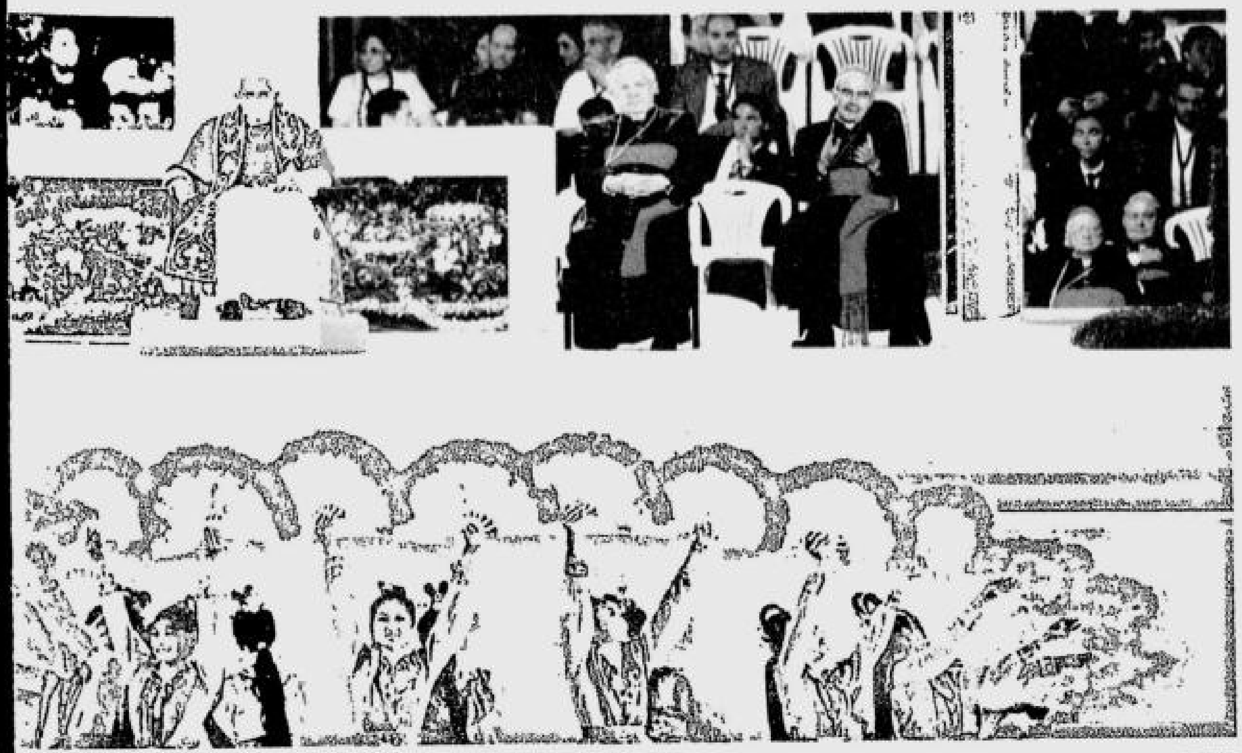


a performance during a meeting in Valencia, Spain. REUTERS

CBCP told to beware of gifts from President

From page A1

specifically asked fellow prelates at the opening of the plenary on Saturday about Malacañang's offer of medicines, rice and other goodies for dioceses of bishops critical of Ms Arroyo.

"Bishop Mercado asked about the different ways through which Malacañang was trying to buy off the bishops," the source said. "He wanted to know what he should do about them."

Dinner invitations

Mercado, 55, also reportedly mentioned instances when some bishops were reportedly taken to Malacañang to dine with Ms Arroyo.

On Monday, at the start of the weeklong CBCP retreat and plenary assembly, a group of bishops was said to have been invited to a restaurant in Intramuros by the President, the source said.

Bishop Ramon Villena of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, reportedly replied that he did not find anything wrong with donations of rice and medicines since they were for the poor.

But prelates like Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan and Bishop Vicente Navarra of Bacolod were adamant, according to the source.

"It's wrong. I couldn't accept them in conscience," the source quoted Navarra as saying during the plenary.

Cruz, a known critic of Ms Arroyo, reportedly opposed the idea because it would "tie our hands" to Malacañang.

In the end, the CBCP left it to each bishop to decide individually whether to accept Malacañang's donations and other favors, and be responsible for their actions, the source said.

Reached for comment, Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, the CBCP spokesperson, declined to confirm or deny the report.

The CBCP plenary was to discuss, among other things, key issues directly involving Ms Arroyo, including the revival in the upcoming session of Congress of last year's impeachment case against her over charges she manipulated the 2004 presidential election, efforts to amend the Constitution and unabated killings of activists, journalists and Church leaders.

Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing. Her allies in Congress had earlier told bishops to stay out of politics after Iñiguez joined the opposition's impeachment complaint. He said it was a personal move that did not involve his standing as a CBCP member.

Not bothered by rebuke

Judging by the agenda of the plenary assembly, the prelates did not seem bothered by Malacañang's rebuke.

As of yesterday, the bishops were drafting a pastoral statement that was expected to cover the unresolved credibility crisis of Ms Arroyo, extending to issues such as Charter change and the impeachment case, according to a source privy to the deliberations.

The bishops entered their second plenary assembly for the year, inspired by "Deus Caritas Est" (God is Love), the first encyclical of Pope Benedict.

Curiously though, Malacañang was invoking the same encyclical to ward off comments from bishops on social and political issues. The bishops have repeatedly explained that their position on issues was coming mainly from the moral perspective.

"The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State," Benedict wrote.,

Church must play part

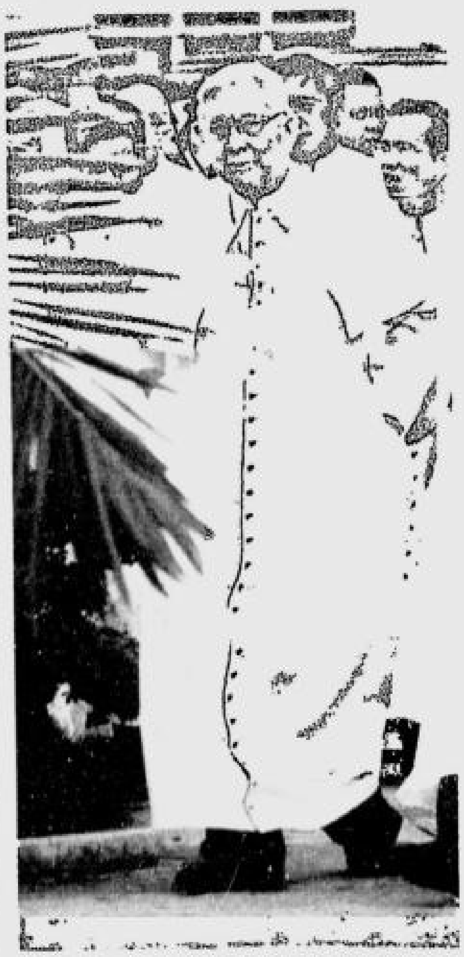
"Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper.

"A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church. Yet the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something, which concerns the Church deeply," the pope said.

At the height of demands for Ms Arroyo's resignation over the poll fraud allegations in July 2005, the CBCP issued a pastoral letter hammered out during its annual plenary refusing to join the clamor for her ouster but telling her that she should not ignore the calls that she step aside.

After the President's allies in Congress killed an impeachment attempt against the President in September 2005, the CBCP issued several statements urging her to put a closure to controversies hounding Ms Arroyo, including the "Hello Garci" wiretaps that indicated irregularities in the 2004 balloting.

The prelates also have criticized Ms Arroyo's moves to amend the Constitution and adopt a parliamentary system of government—an initiative which her opponents say is meant to keep her in power without removing the cloud of legitimacy hanging over her.



MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and other members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines arrive at the Pope Pius Center in Manila for a meeting. RYAN LIM

THE FREEZE IS ON.

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OPINION

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The problem remains

EDITORIAL

THE CONTROVERSIAL VIDEOTAPE BRIG. GEN. Danilo Lim made, to declare his withdrawal of support from his commander in chief, has run up against a wall of public skepticism. The problem isn't with the tape's contents; even Lim, the erstwhile commanding general of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, does not dispute the main facts. The problem is with the tape's provenance; its release or discovery seems to play right into Malacañang's hands.

And the public can see through the appearances.

But we should be wary of attributing too much strategic savoir-faire to President Macapagal-Arroyo or her political lieutenants; politics is not an exact science and outcomes do not always agree with intentions. Yes, the Lim tape helps Malacañang make the public (not the legal) case for its declaration of a state of national emergency last February. In other words, it's a bold ploy in the perception game. But the tape also proves that the real problem undermining the armed services remains active, exactly like a fault line.

This problem is manifest even if Lim's own and most recent version of the tape's provenance is taken into account. Lim, or a surrogate of his who seems to enjoy direct access to the controversial general's innermost thoughts, has outlined the defense we will hear again and again in the coming days: Lim produced the tape, or agreed to appear on video, in order to delimit, or defuse, or defang (choose your own self-serving verb), the coming coup.

"He didn't want any more violence, but the young officers were hot," said a self-described key participant in the crucial meeting between Lim and more junior officers. Lim's decision to videotape his withdrawal of support, the source said, was meant to temper their hot-headedness, to channel their power-grabbing energies in a more democratic direction.

"In a way, the video even did the government a favor because it helped prevent violence," the surrogate said.

In fact, the increasingly expansive surrogate continued, there was really nothing to the events last February. "In truth, there was really no coup. There was no plan to attack Malacañang, take over networks, or hit police or military camps. Lim prevailed upon the junior officers and they finally agreed to a peaceful march."

As a legal defense, this narration of events is rather creative—even if it comes down a little too hard on the junior officers. But even if it had the virtue of being true, it cannot hide the essential truth about the armed services today: Restiveness continues to roil the ranks. That is the undeniable subtext of a five-month-old videotape.

Why does the restiveness continue to exist? Because the sense that the Armed Forces and the police were used to commit election fraud in 2004 continues to nag at the conscience of many soldiers and quite a number of policemen. We do not even think that most of the conscience-stricken necessarily share Lim's videotaped conviction (apparently different from his live, not-on-video position) that Ms Arroyo is a fake President. We think many of them merely want what we want too: accountability, the subjecting of even the very highest officials of the land to a reasonable process that will determine whether there is, in fact, liability or not.

Of course, there is an enormous difference between wanting accountability from a commander in chief whose mandate is in doubt and supporting a transition government which has no mandate at all. A soldier who cannot see the difference has no business serving in a democracy.

This brings us back to the Lim tape. We think it actually proves two things. It gives the lie to the repeated and increasingly irritated assertions by the President's many spokespersons that her crisis of legitimacy has been resolved, that so-called closure has been achieved. And it makes the case that some form of transparent accounting must take place, if the crisis is to end: an impeachment, a Congress-mandated inquiry, a revamp of the election commission, a mid-term election serving as a referendum. Nothing less would do.

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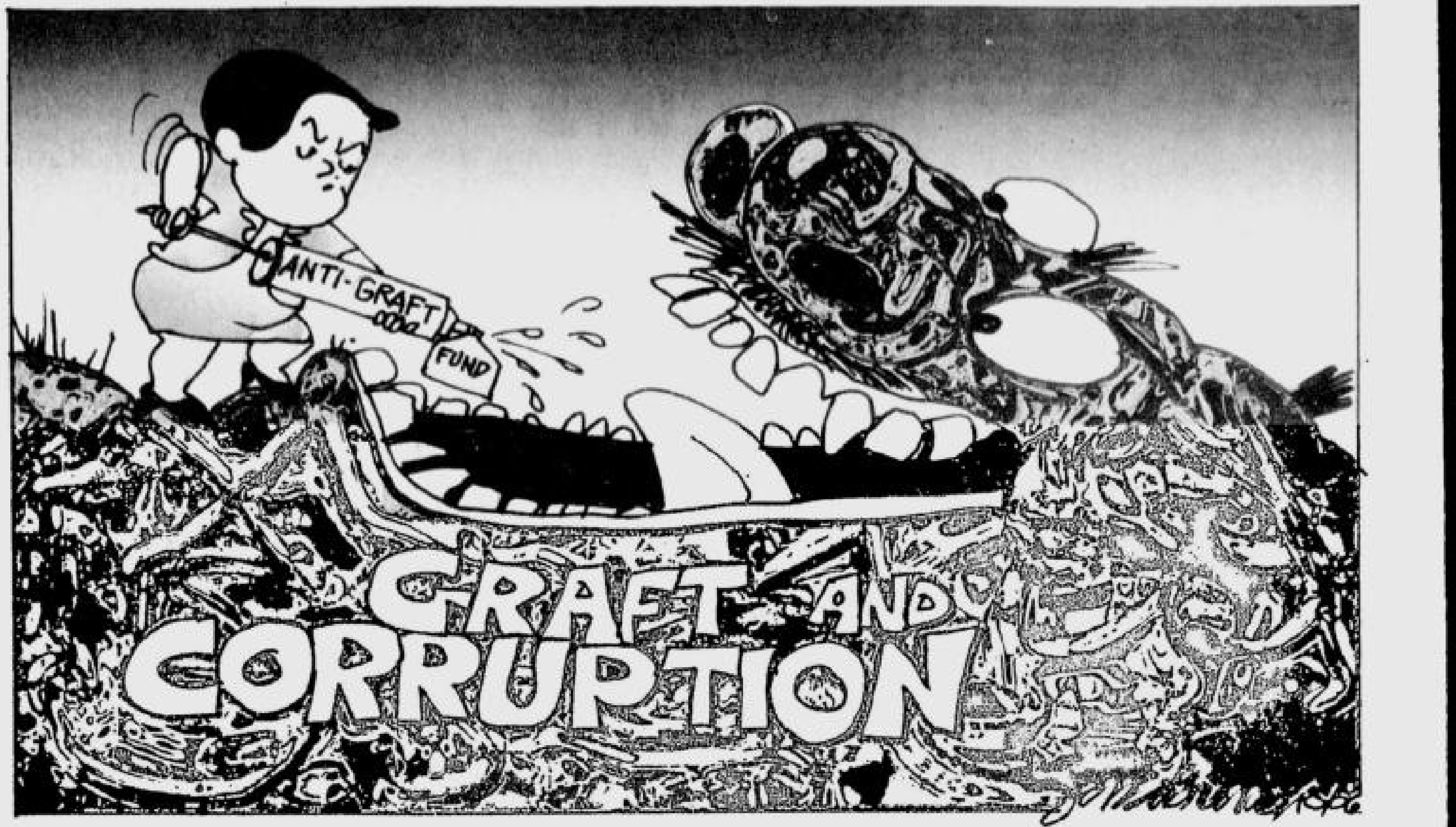

Cancel Masinloc sale and rebid it

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) must be loathe to give up the P10-million bonus they favored themselves with, so much so that—after seizing the $14-million performance bond of YNN Pacific Holdings—they gave the corporation another 30-day extension, the third such extension, to deliver the P227 million down payment of its winning bid for the Masinloc power plant. The bonus is allegedly a reward for "a job well done" by PSALM for having been able to sell the National Power Corp.'s biggest power plant for $561.74 million. This is a case of counting the chicks before they are hatched. As it has turned out, YNN Pacific cannot make good on its winning bid. It cannot even produce just the 40-percent down payment required to finalize the contract, despite several extensions.

If YNN cannot pay the $227 million, then its winning bid will be canceled, it loses its $14-million performance bond and the Masinloc plant will have to be bid out again. If the deal is canceled, then what is the P10-million bonus or reward for? *"Sayang, kuarta na, naging bato pa,"* the PSALM board must be thinking.

Or, considering the eagerness of PSALM board members to collect the bonus right away, they may have already received all or part of the reward. In which case, they will have to refund the money—and if they have already spent it, where will they get the refund money?

There is no credible excuse for PSALM to justify the 30-day extension beyond saying that the $561-million bid price is too good to give up.

First, its contract with YNN does not provide that it can grant YNN another extension after it has decided to forfeit the $14-million performance bond.

Second, the extension defies logic. After penalizing YNN through the forfeiture of the bond, PSALM gives it another chance to commit the same illegal act.

Third, YNN has already been exposed: it is not a legitimate power firm but a mere contract peddler that has no financial or technical capability to run a power plant like the 600-MW Masinloc plant.

Fourth, the June 30, 2006 third deadline given to YNN for the delivery of the down payment was non-extendible.

But one doesn't have to look too far to see the hand behind this anomalous development. Sources within the power industry have revealed that the PSALM decision was made upon orders of Malacañang. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi had reportedly called President Macapagal-Arroyo asking her to assist Ranhill Berhad's entry into the Masinloc deal. Ranhill is a Malaysian firm.

This clearly constitutes an act of interference by a foreign government into our internal affairs. Badawi has no legal or moral right to tell our government what to do in matters that are purely our own concern.

The President's advisers who are telling her to accommodate the Malaysian leader are doing her a disservice because of the serious legal implications of such intrusion. If the President is acting on her own on this issue, then she could have in her hands another ground for impeachment—for culpable violation of the Constitution, treason and betrayal of public trust.

The other officials behind the grant of another extension should be charged with graft and corruption, for giving undue advantage to a dubious entity at the expense of the Filipino people.

Filipinos are outraged by this third extension, because it will add to their burden. If and when YNN-Ranhill is able to pay the upfront fee and formally operates the plant, it is sure to increase the selling price of its electricity (from the present P2.80 per kWh to more than P5 per kWh)—because of higher production cost—to recover its huge investment and earn a profit.

Before the new 30-day extension, PSALM had already given YNN two previous extensions. In the first two, YNN did not remit a single peso. Being merely a broker firm, YNN used the extensions to look for a willing partner that would take over its rights under the Masinloc sales contract. It was able to find that partner in Ranhill only last April, and from the takeover, YNN is set to earn $8 million.

But here's the catch: Ranhill demanded from YNN that it first forge a supply contract with Meralco before it formally takes over. But Masinloc was sold as a merchant plant with no attached supply contract. Besides, all supply contracts must go through a public bidding as required by the rules.

So how did YNN-Ranhill try to solve these problems? By facilitating the issuance by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) of Resolution 21, which suspended all requirements for a public bidding of supply contracts. The resolution came in an instant, in a matter of days. It helped that Sunny Sun, YNN's owner, used to be a business partner of Jesus Alcordo, one of the ERC commissioners who signed the controversial resolution.

With the resolution in place, it was now possible for YNN and Meralco to negotiate a supply contract away from public scrutiny. This was confirmed by Meralco itself last week.

But here's the hitch: If YNN succeeds in signing a supply contract with Meralco, it will result in even higher power rates for Meralco consumers because it will again raise production cost.

There is really no other way to resolve this controversy but to cancel YNN's winning bid, and to conduct another public bidding. Ban YNN from the second bidding process to erase whatever apprehensions prospective bidders may have as to the integrity of the bidding.

Criminals

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

PRAY, WHAT CRIME HAS DANILO LIM COMmitted?

Malacañang says it is variously plotting to oust Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, plotting to mutiny against GMA, plotting to coup-curucucoup GMA. Take your pick.

Well, what Lim did say, as the video shows, was a "withdrawal of support." Is that any different from the withdrawal of support of Angelo Reyes, or indeed GMA herself, from Erap?

Ah, but it is. For reasons that indict not Lim but the people he plotted to withdraw support from.

Reyes'—and GMA's—withdrawal of support from Erap was a withdrawal of support from an elected president. At the time Erap was ousted, the impeachment proceedings against him hadn't finished. Half the senators had merely walked out of the impeachment court. They had done so because their colleagues, who were the majority, had tried to block the truth from being known, the truth in the form of the so-called "Second Envelope," which they voted not to open. To this day, that remains the fundamental moral justification for Erap's ouster: He had betrayed the public trust; his supporters in the Senate-cum-impeachment-court had merely tried to prevent the truth from coming out.

By contrast, Lim's withdrawal of support was a withdrawal of support from an unelected president. There is the "Hello Garci" to prove that beyond a shadow of doubt. That isn't just a moral justification for ousting GMA, that is a legal justification for jailing her. GMA hadn't just betrayed the public trust, she had screwed the voters' votes. The only reason she remains in power is that her supporters act as though the "Hello Garci" does not exist, and she has prevented witnesses, like Gen. Francisco Gudani and Col. Alexander Balutan from showing her to have robbed the voters of Tawi-Tawi and environs of their votes.

Now, tell me, how is the desperate effort of Erap's friends to prevent the Second Envelope from being opened different from GMA's desperate effort to prevent Gudani and Balutan from opening their mouths? Well, the second is worse. Far, far, worse. Yet Erap is in jail and GMA is in Malacañang.

If Lim committed any crime, it is only in trying to talk his superiors, who were the top brass of the AFP, into joining his cause. He seems to have been confident he had done so when he agreed to give that interview. To this day, I cannot comprehend how he could have possibly thought that his superiors, who had corruption charges hanging on their heads and were even then being fattened off the fat of the land by their commander-in-theft, could have been persuaded to bite the hand that fed them.

Indeed, if Lim committed any crime, it is only the crime of idealism, or optimism, of believing that his superiors could be capable of finally thinking of country before self, of being satiated at some point, of being alarmed at the hellish pass their country had been plunged into, enough to say, *"Tama na, sobra na, abuso na."* If Lim committed any crime, it is only the crime of wanting to avoid bloodshed, which was what made him want to talk to his superiors to begin with, the younger officers already incensed at the way the AFP had been utterly perverted and used like petty riffraff to steal the vote in Muslim Mindanao; and ready to storm the gates of Hell or Malacañang, whichever held more demons.

Truly, those are heinous crimes in this country today. To continue to believe in the decency of other people, including generals, and the wisdom of bloodless uprisings—that is deserving of the firing squad.

Indeed, even if Lim's actions constitute a coup plot and not just a mere withdrawal of support, what of it? If it were so, then it would have been a coup to end a coup. Indeed it would have been a popular coup to end a widely detested coup. For make no mistake about it, the GMA regime is the product of a coup. It is a coup regime. It is a junta held by a few people. It is a seizure of power, no more and no less than Ferdinand Marcos' martial law was a seizure of power, albeit one done through the ballot rather than the bullet, by Garci rather than by goons, by farce rather than by force. It is no less vicious and murderous for being so, the usurpation now currently being propped up by the thuggish ways of dictatorship. Illegitimacy is the handmaiden of dictatorship. So it was in Marcos' time, so it is in GMA's time.

The real crime isn't Lim plotting to oust GMA and attempting to get his fellows in uniform to go along with him, it is GMA actually ousting democracy, whose cornerstone is that the people may be ruled only by the leaders they voted for, and conscripting the very sectors of society that once ousted a president who had betrayed the public trust to go along with her.

The real accessories to the crime are not the civilians and military officers who did go along to end a vicious farce; it is the bishops who thought to lend a halo to a usurper, shown by the "Hello Garci" tape to be willing to agree to kidnapping to silence a witness; the businessmen who kept asking, "But who do we replace her with?" as though an illegitimate leader can ever be better than a dog; the pillars of civil society who proved that they were hollower than the prop pillars Hollywood used for "Samson and Delilah"; the congressmen whose only heroic act was to look at the faces of the heroes in the peso bills that flooded the Batasan during the impeachment bid; the lawyers who argued that there could possibly be any shred of sanity, not to speak of legality, in preventing Gudani and Balutan from telling the world GMA was a cheat apart from a liar; the tired, cynical and resignation-filled Filipinos who kept saying, *"Sige na lang,* let's move on," as though life could ever move a muscle while being pinned down by a rubble called Injustice. Look at them:

Criminals all.

The Palace and the CBCP

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, THE SUPREME Court admonished a judge for her handling of a case challenging the right of religious leaders to endorse candidates. The Court minced no words saying that the judge acted "with inexplicable haste, [and] with total ignorance of the law." Now the judge is in peril of being administratively disciplined for what she has done. Having been charged with "ignorance of the law" is not very flattering for a judge. But the fact is judges have been dismissed from the service for ignorance of the law.

While that pronouncement of the Supreme Court on the case was a welcome relief from another annoying election-time litigation, the decision was less about separation of Church and State than about the competence of the lower court judge. You could sense from the tenor of the Court's language that it would have wanted to grapple with the issue if it had been properly raised. The issue of separation of Church and State, the Court said, was "of paramount interest" and "was both of transcendental importance and novel in nature since it had never been decided before." But the Court refrained from touching the issue because of the technical shortcomings of the judge's decision.

If Church critics will put their money where their mouths are, they may yet give to the Supreme Court the opportunity to deal with an issue which is both of "transcendental importance and novel in nature."

The issue which started the case two years ago was whether church leaders could endorse candidates. Until now the Supreme Court has not had the opportunity to decide whether or not religious leaders violate the Constitution when they support the candidacy of a person vying for office or even campaign for his election. Now the issue has come out again, but in a different form: May a religious leader join those who file an impeachment complaint against the President?

My constant view on the role of religious leaders in the political arena is that the non-establishment provision is a command addressed by the Constitution to the State. The Constitution says, "No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion." It is out of this text that the doctrine of "separation of Church and State" has been derived.

True, the 1973 Constitution added the principle that "The separation of Church and State shall be inviolable." But inviolable by whom? Judicial records are replete with decisions setting down how and when the State in one way or another may be said to have "established religion" or violated separation of Church and State. But you can comb the decisions in both Philippine and American jurisprudence and you will find no decision pointing to a non-state entity as having violated the non-establishment clause. A non-state entity like a church may be a victim of a violation of the separation rule, but the violation is done not by the church but by the State.

Briefly, the non-establishment clause was not meant to be a protective mantle for the State but a command to the State to let the people decide how they will deal with their God.

When you examine what are called violations of the separation rule by a churchman, what they really mean is that the churchman has committed a political impropriety or an ecclesiastical imprudence, neither of which is the same as a constitutional violation. It is possible that the churchman may even have violated Canon Law. Churchmen, after all, operate under two legal regimes, secular and ecclesial. But the ecclesial regime is outside the jurisdiction of the state.

I must add, however, that just as churchmen do not lose their right to criticize acts of government officials, so too politicians retain their right to criticize their church leaders. Churchmen should also listen to the voices from the pews.

The flip side of the non-establishment clause is the free exercise clause. It is on the basis of the latter clause that the right of churchmen to speak out is firmly and constitutionally anchored. "The free exercise of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights." Applied disrespectfully to religious leaders, this translates into the constitutional doctrine that even religious leaders have the constitutional right to make fools of themselves. Needless to say, politicians also have that constitutional right.

Finally, however, let me just say that should churchmen stop being controversial for the sake of avoiding controversy at all costs, then churchmen should examine whether they are being faithful to their vocation. I am writing this piece on the morning of the 14th Sunday of Ordinary time, after I read the liturgical readings for this Sunday. Three great religious leaders are featured: Ezekiel, Paul and Jesus. All three faced rejection in their time. As God put it to Ezekiel: "Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you." All three, however, measured success not by the extent of their popularity among the people but by their fidelity to what they saw as their God-given mission. Thus, if you are expecting churchmen to back away from public controversy, you are headed for disappointment.

They're at Malthus again

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

I AM REFERRING TO THE ANTI-LIFE AND ANTI-family advocates who seem not to run out of clever ways to insert their Western-based agenda into every conceivable legislation they can think of. Now they would have 21 bills of various concerns consolidated into an omnibus law covering reproductive health, population policy, two-child policy and sex education for the youth. Of the bills, at least three promote the use of artificial contraception in the guise of promoting "women's health."

These advocates have turned a valid societal concern into a euphemism for their real agenda—population control. If they really want to address women's health, why is there no attempt to include Senate Bill 319? The bill seeks to ban abortive drugs and devices. The bill's exclusion gives away outright the sinister intentions of the advocates.

The basis of their argument, of course, is the erroneous belief that a decline in population means economic growth and development. Thomas Robert Malthus was an English demographer and political economist who lived from 1766 to 1834. It was he who introduced the rather pessimistic principle that foresaw the world's population outrunning food supply, leading to a decrease in food per person.

To check population growth, Malthus advocated, among other solutions, what he called "moral restraint and vice." This population control strategy called for late marriage and sexual abstinence; but it also advocated infanticide, murder, contraception and homosexuality. But here's the catch in the Malthus proposal: these solutions would apply only to the poor and working classes. In the Malthusian argument, only the lower social classes would assume responsibility for societal ills.

Since then, many have misinterpreted Malthus, even overlooking other aspects of his argument. For example, there are those who ignore the fact that Malthus himself, even as he pressed for population control, stated that we cannot denigrate man's capacity (he called it "power") to increase food supply.

Those who do cling to Malthus' theory up to this day misinterpret not just his thoughts. In their vain desire to adapt the Western culture of licentious behavior in the name of freedom and self-determination, they have put up their own smokescreen to keep them from seeing a succession of various scholars and studies that have effectively debunked Malthus since the 1960s. At least one such study, published in 1966, was not only a pioneering initiative at that time; it gave its proponent a Nobel Prize honor. Since then, up until the 1990s and the present, a progression of other studies has only pointed to the emerging reality: there just is no population bomb.

Not only that, countries that have been lured by the Malthusian myth into running a "successful" population program now have to address the grim reality of diminishing human resource. Japan, Germany and Italy are now in the throes of the so-called "demographic winter." The governments of Russia, Singapore, South Korea and Bulgaria are now offering incentives to encourage childbearing in an attempt to curb population decline.

Yet here in the Philippines, anti-life advocates—usually *pikon* when criticized despite the fact that they have access to the legislative powers-that-be—cling to an out-of-touch, outdated and archaic thinking that even their Western gods have failed to prove in their respective countries. The advocates seem not to hear the alarm bells ringing in countries where the demographic winter has set in, countries that are now repentant at having toyed with Malthus' theory.

Why the recalcitrance on the part of our anti-life advocates? There clearly is a colonial agenda here that is tied to Western purse strings. These agenda-makers may not be obtrusive with their presence. It is even possible that some advocates are aware of them or have yet to notice them. But I won't be surprised if there lurks in the shadows such anti-life giant octopuses as Planned Parenthood, whose tentacles may have spread far and wide to influence Philippine legislative efforts.

Population control is simply not the solution to poverty. The Philippine population control program, in place since the 1970s and funded by billions of pesos of public money, has brought down the population from 3.08 percent during the period 1960-1970 to 2.36 percent during the period 1995-2000. Despite the population decline, however, poverty incidence has not been reduced significantly. Clearly then, there are other factors that are not being addressed. Try curbing graft and corruption, as we expect legislators to do.

The proposed bills are premised on the belief that we are poor because we are too many. Fewer births may (or may not) mean less expense for a family, depending on its priorities. What is certain, however, is that less births mean less people for the labor force in the next 20 years. Higher population densities do not necessarily translate into lower personal income. We have certainly seen this in thickly populated areas that exhibit higher incomes and greater economic activity (the National Capital Region, Southern Tagalog, Cebu, Davao, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea; as opposed to Bolivia, Kenya, Ethiopia, which have lower density but also lower personal incomes).

Finally, when must we put a stop to the use of the term "reproductive health" which, in international forums, is simply a catch-all jargon that includes abortion; but which local advocates have repeatedly denied? The attempt to redefine a term that has become part of an all-encompassing political definition is a lame method of deceit and dishonesty.

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Malig debunks Defensor

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

FILIPINO WIT IS BEYOND THE POWERS OF THE Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, or any executive order or presidential proclamation to control. And so when Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor announced his Madyaas Confederacy, cheeky text messages and e-mail and blog comments proliferated (I leave it to the clever reader to determine what "Madyaas" could be an anagram of).

Jojo Pasion Malig, in his blog (http://writingthirty.blogspot.com) took a scholarly approach to Defensor's brainchild, suggesting that it betrayed an ignorance of accepted research on the subject. Defensor's organization is based on the misconception that the book "Maragtas, or History of Panay from the first inhabitants and the Bornean immigrants from which the Bisayans are descended to the arrival of the Spaniards," written by Pedro Alcantara Monteclaro in 1907, was based on historical facts and not—as Alcantara himself clearly stated—a collection of legends culled from various sources. That mistaken impression was fostered by historians and clarified by William Henry Scott in a thesis defense, later incorporated in his book, "Philippine Source Materials for the Study of Philippine History."

Malig's writing forced me to dig out my musty old copy of Scott's book, "The Maragtas," on "The Confederation of Madiaas." Scott wrote that "Maragtas" is "an account of seven resolutions adopted by the seven Panay *datus* as a kind of political constitution. They agree to rename the island Madiaas and divide it among the senior three, with [datu] Sumakwel exerting executive authority over the two and retaining immediate jurisdiction over the lesser four, with legislative power upon attestation by any two of these; that the three ranking rulers will receive the oaths of office before the others and a priest; and that no taxes will be levied save a religious contribution every seven years." Scott added that "Since this appears to be the oldest political constitution in Asia, its authenticity must be carefully considered."

Careful consideration, Scott asserted (and a panel of senior historians that vetted his thesis agreed) that the evidence isn't there, either in terms of actual, provable documents or from echoes of such a political arrangement in Panay: "the 'Maragtas,' therefore, gives no reasonable grounds for supposing the existence of any prehispanic 'Confederation of Madiaas.'" Which means, Malig says (and rightly so), "One big problem for Defensor and his gang. It's pseudohistory at its best."

Malig has also been waging a lonely crusade for the reconsideration of the names given some of the highest honors of the Republic: the Orders of Sikatuna and Lakandula (the Order of Kalantiaw, named after what's been proven a historical hoax, was discontinued in the reforms of 2003).

The Order of Sikatuna is conferred on diplomats and those who've fostered friendly relations between our country and other nations. It commemorates the first blood compact between the Philippines and a foreign country. But Malig stressed: "Point of clarity. The first blood compact was between Ferdinand Magellan and the king of Mazaua, Raia Siaiu (Si Ayo for easier reading). This happened on Holy Thursday, March 28, 1521 [or] 44 years before the Sikatuna event in Juan Luna's [famous painting] 'Pacto de Sangre.' [Thus] the first recorded treaty between the Philippines (named San Lazaro at the time and, to be precise, it was only Cebu that was bound by the treaty) and a foreign country was on Tuesday, April 9, 1521. This was negotiated by Magellan and Cebu's Raia Humabon's nephew aided by Raia Siaiu and 11 others."

Malig has been hoping, since 2005, that "Raia Siaiu will replace Sikatuna." A letter, pointing out the historical error, has been sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo. "Speedy action is needed; it is internationally embarrassing for the Philippines to be awarding foreign dignitaries a decoration that represents the apotheosis of ignorance in history."

I've been aware of this issue for some time, and the problem it posed was a practical one: what of the legions of distinguished individuals conferred the Order in the past? It seems to me, upon reflection, that without diminishing the Order, or having to change its appearance or the criteria for its conferment, the problem could be fixed by an executive order announcing that "henceforth, the Order of Sikatuna shall be known as the Order of_____, in the light of advances in Philippine scholarship since the 1950s." But the National Historical Institute, representing a consensus among historians, has to pass a resolution advising the government of this solution. Will it be the Order of Si Ayo (if the Order will commemorate the first blood compact), or the Order of Humabon (if the first treaty is to be recalled)?

The Order of Lakandula, established in 2003—and very recently modified to permit the conferment of the unique (in international practice) rank of "Champion for Life" on Manny Pacquiao and a beauty queen—has also been criticized by Malig: "But if I am ever awarded the medal in [the] service of [my] country, I will not be too enthusiastic about the subject since Lakandula—chieftain of Tondo at the time of the Spanish arrival in Manila and [after] whom the award is named—received a mighty tongue-lashing from Macabebe datu Tarik Sulayman, for having submitted to the Spanish with nary a struggle Lakandula most likely (belonged) to the Kapampangan warrior-nobility since Tondo, at that time, was a Moslem-Kapampangan garrison and stronghold; and 1640 Kapampangan fighter Francisco Laksamana traces his roots to Lakandula." As Malig puts it, "If anything, Lakandula would have been the anti-thesis of a Kapampangan warrior—more concerned on the realpolitik of his period than anything else."

Cha-cha power grab

COMMENTARY

Carlos P. Medina Jr.

IN A POSITION PAPER AND FULL-PAGE ADVERTORIAL (PDI, 6/22/06), One Voice, a non-partisan group advocating a five-point process to address the political impasse, noted that the current "people's initiative" is legally flawed and deceptive; and that the proposed changes will take away power from the people and hand it over to those who already have too much of it. What are the bases of One Voice's observations?

1. The people's initiative is legally flawed. Initiative as a mode of amending the Constitution is provided by the Constitution (Sec. 2, Art. XVIII), but is at the moment not available for lack of an enabling law. In Santiago v. Comelec (1997), the Supreme Court held that RA 6735, the Initiative and Referendum Law, as worded, does not apply to the amendment of the Constitution by initiative. Moreover, a proposal to change the form of government from presidential to parliamentary is a revision, not a simple amendment, of the Constitution. Initiative as a mode of Charter change is not applicable for revisions.

2. The current initiative is based on deceptive reasoning. Contrary to the claim that a shift to a parliamentary system with a unicameral legislature will put the country on "a trajectory toward long-term economic progress and political stability" and that "experience in every region around the globe has shown that this system works best in any country, under any culture," there is no conclusive empirical evidence to this effect. (A review of existing empirical studies by Prof. Solita Monsod is posted at www.onevoice.org.ph.) Neither are the claims about the "restrictive" effects on foreign direct investment (FDI) of the economic provisions of the present Constitution borne out by facts (see One Voice position paper at www.onevoice.org.ph).

3. The proposed changes will give even more political power to people who already have too much of it. This observation is made in the context of the relatively high concentration of political power in Philippine society today. These proposed changes are:

3.1. Proposal to take away from the people their power to directly vote for President, leaving the Parliament to choose the prime minister from among them. This is proposed by the People's Initiative Petition (PIP), the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments (HC) and the Consultative Commission (CC). HC and CC also propose that the President be elected from among the Members of Parliament (MPs).

3.2. Proposal to create a powerful Interim Parliament composed of incumbent politicians (senators and representatives) that would decide whether the 2007 elections will be held or not. The CC, HC and PIP all propose such an Interim Parliament. The CC proposes that there be no elections in 2007 and that the terms of all elective officials be extended to June 30, 2010. The HC proposes that elections for regular MPs and local officials be held in 2007, but the plebiscite will ask the people whether they want to have the elections in 2010 instead, thus extending the Interim Parliament until 2010. The PIP proposes that the Interim Parliament shall provide for the election of regular MPs, to be held simultaneously with local elections, but no date or year is fixed for this election to be called, and the Interim Parliament shall continue until the regular MPs are elected.

3.3. The proposal to create a super-President with additional prime ministerial powers. The CC, HC and PIP propose that during the transition period, the incumbent President shall be the head of state and head of government until 2010, and the PM shall be under the direction of the incumbent President and shall exercise only such powers as may be delegated to him/her by the incumbent President. In other words, the President will keep the powers specified by the 1987 Constitution, while enjoying the powers of prime minister under a new Constitution—an arrangement highly vulnerable to abuse. Not only will there be no separation of powers, as in an American-style presidential system, but the chances of a vote of no-confidence and of a call for new elections, as in the case of a classical parliamentary system, are very slim.

3.4. The authority for the Interim Parliament to introduce even more amendments, some of which may not even be known to the people today. As part of the Transitory Provisions, the PIP proposes: "Within forty-five days from ratification of these amendments, the interim Parliament shall convene to propose amendments to, or revisions of, this Constitution consistent with the principles of local autonomy, decentralization and a strong bureaucracy."

3.5. For instance, an amendment to restore the power of the President to declare martial law on "imminent danger" of rebellion—a Marcos gambit. The CC (and HC) proposes that the President (or PM) shall have the power to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or declare martial law in case of invasion, rebellion or imminent danger thereof, upon the advice of the PM, and when the public safety requires it.

3.6. Or, amendments that will weaken the Supreme Court. Both CC and HC propose the deletion of the Court's power to (i) review the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus; (ii) determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the government. The CC also proposes that the vote required for the tribunal to decide cases involving the constitutionality, application, or operation of presidential decrees, proclamations, orders, instructions, ordinances and other regulations, be increased from majority to two-thirds vote.

3.7. Or, amendments to open the door for those in power to stay on indefinitely. As discussed in 3.2., incumbents will have the opportunity to remain in power at least until 2010, if no elections are held earlier. There is no prohibition in any of the proposals against incumbents (including the President and the Vice President) from running in any parliamentary elections to be held in 2010. In addition, MPs who win in 2010 shall have a term of five years, without any limit to the number of terms.

Once the Interim Parliament assumes plenary powers, it will be hard to stop.

The 1987 Constitution gives us enough power to institute immediate political and electoral reforms (such as anti-dynasty and anti-turncoat legislations), and addresses the real social and economic problems that confront our people on a daily basis. Constitutional reforms, if necessary, are best done through a more transparent Constitutional Convention, after the 2007 elections, where any changes will not benefit those in power today.

Carlos P. Medina Jr. is executive director of the Human Rights Center, School of Law, Ateneo de Manila University.

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Sex education in dream world

IT SEEMS EVERYONE HAS weighed in on the sex education controversy. But in the uproar, one voice has been deafeningly absent—the voice of the youth themselves.

It isn't apathy. We're merely doing what we've been taught. In this overwhelmingly Catholic country, a code of silence surrounds sex. We know that disgrace follows closely upon discovery; we know that we'll be labeled "cheap," "whore," or worse. But the threat of scandal doesn't prevent kids from experimenting—it simply drives our activities underground.

The statistics are sobering: according to the World Health Organization, around 21 percent of Filipino women experience pregnancy before they turn 19; 36 percent before marriage. More saddening is the fact that each of these numbers has a name, a face, a future.

I personally know of several young women who have suffered through agonizing abortion attempts (like lying on the tiles of their bathrooms). Some of them thought that withdrawal was effective. I know of another young woman who contracted herpes because she believed that using a condom wasn't necessary. And guess what? None of their parents knew a thing.

This is why it is ridiculous to believe, as the Church appears to believe, that "sex education is the sole right and responsibility of parents." I'm afraid that this idealistic view is typical of a group of conservative men who not only have sworn to be chaste, but also have never experienced parenthood.

Sexuality is an intensely private thing, especially for hormonal, independent teenagers. Trust me—the last thing we want to do is listen to our parents describing masturbation. And most of the mothers and fathers I know turn crimson and break out in a cold sweat whenever they are confronted with "the birds and the bees."

Many will just mutter "Just say no!" and hope desperately that their child obeys. Furthermore, very few parents are equipped with the kind of information their children need. How many adults, let alone clueless adolescents, know the difference between progesterone and combination pills? Or why wearing two condoms is unsafe?

Sex education will not usurp the role of parents in teaching their children about the sanctity of sex, or the responsibilities of marriage. But those who believe that parental advice is enough to keep adolescents innocent are living in a dream world. There will always be an element of secrecy, of privacy, in an adolescent's sexual life, as I'm sure there was in yours.

And in a world where kinky Bench billboards assault every schoolchild commuting on Edsa, in a world where even Yahoo's link to "Women's Issues in the Filipino Congress" leads straight to porn, teenagers need to be armed with all the concrete information they can get.

—ALEXANDRA LEE HELLQUIST,
Alexandra_Hellquist@brown.edu

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LETTERS

Chino's memory desecrated

THE CHINO ROCES FOUNDATION is gravely saddened and outraged by a policeman's tearing up of a wreath laid by a group of college journalists at the monument of Joaquin "Chino" Roces at the bridge (formerly the Mendiola Bridge) which now carries his name.

The policeman's brazen act last June 30, a day after we celebrated Chino's 93rd birth anniversary, was a desecration of his memory.

The foundation condemns the act most strongly. It condemns as well the forced dispersal of the wreath-layers; indeed, it condemns any form of suppression of freedom, which is now being undertaken with increasing frequency and ruthlessness.

Chino Roces did not let any such assaults on freedom go unchallenged, and neither now will the foundation, which has taken upon itself the sacred duty of protecting and perpetuating his heroic legacy.

—JOAQUIN P. ROCES
FOUNDATION

Unreasonable meter replacement fee

IN THE MORNING OF JUNE 30, 2006, our house help discovered that our water meter had been stolen. Through the phone, I immediately reported the theft to our barangay office and the Customer Service Hotline of Manila Water Co. I was shocked to hear from a Manila Water representative that there would be a P1,020 charge for meter replacement. Even so, there was no assurance that the replacement would be made immediately.

The following were the issues I raised with the company rep:

1. My water meter, as far as I could recall, was inside our garage until Manila Water transferred it outside my property. Manila Water did this arbitrarily without telling us its reason for doing so. Therefore, the company should be responsible for securing the water meter.

2. As customers, we are already paying premium for the water we consume; Manila Water should not give us any additional burden.

3. Assuming I pay the P1,020 for the replacement meter, and on the next day the replacement meter gets stolen again, will I have to pay another P1,020 for a new meter?

4. What happens now to the poor customers, who cannot make both ends meet, when their water meters are stolen?

5. I was the fourth victim of water meter theft in our area, where apparently such thefts were becoming rampant.

The rep gave the phone to her supervisor who told me that the "replacement charge" was company policy. I was promised that the territory business manager, Ton-ton Arias, would give me a call. Up to this writing, I have not received any call from Arias.

—CLEO A. ALDAY,
4642 Aranda St.,
La Paz, Makati City

Ad agencies' creative prowess

WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL TO Inquirer correspondent Greg Garcia for his piece on the advertising industry. (PDI, 7/3/06) We are also very pleased he chose to mention that the regional trade publication, Campaign Brief Asia, cited us as the Philippines' Agency of the Year.

However, in his article he wondered if "our non-winning clients ... are getting lousy creative work." We'd like to reassure him that his speculations are far from the truth. We are tremendously proud of the work we do for all our clients. And this year, we are happy that the Philippines won its first awards in Radio and Outdoor at Cannes—building on last year's success in the TV competition, the first in 52 years of the festival.

Overall, clients that were recognized this year included FedEx Asia Pacific, Pizza Hut and Childhope Asia; the latter for a campaign that had already won Gold at the Philippine Ad Congress and the Ad of the Year award at the Philippine Creative Guild.

Entries from this country reached a record high this year—170 from more than 10 agencies. And we'd like to congratulate all of them for their efforts in taking the country forward into a globalized marketing communications arena—where the best ideas can quite literally come from anywhere.

—DAVID GUERRERO,
BBDO GO

An insult to the Filipino youth

THIS IS ABOUT THE JUNE 10 ISsue of the INQUIRER's "Super!" section. As university students working hard to prepare for a bright future, we felt insulted by the "Super!" editors' portrayal of Filipino youth culture.

The section's editors think they are "cool." The news is that they are not! They are only nonsensical and frivolous, who think they will get readers through "shock" value. In many of its issues, this section only features people who think the most urgent thing in life is the question of what clothes they should wear or which beach party to go to.

Please, let's not waste any more newsprint on these people. We would rather be reading about people our age who try to make a difference in their communities, who are fashionable, not fashion victims, and who think, not airheads who have nothing between their ears.

We look forward to change!

—CLARISSA BUENAVENTURA AND
14 OTHER SIGNATORIES,
students from the University
of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

Role of zoos in animal conservation

THE CAMPAIGN OF THE PEOPLE for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) to shut down the world's zoos, including all of the zoos in the Philippines (PDI, 6/7/06), is not only misguided but stupid. Zoos are many times at the forefront of animal conservation efforts. If it wasn't for the zoos, many of the world's endangered species would be extinct by now.

Of course, we all want to see animals treated as humane as possible. We want them to live in spacious and comfortable surroundings, and the world's zoos are making great efforts to achieve these goals. But to eliminate zoos altogether would be a great disservice to both animals and people. Zoos also promote greater public awareness about the plight of animals. Children get a first-hand look at animals, and this helps increase their appreciation of those other creatures. Peta, it seems, is concerned to elevate animals to a higher level than humans.

I never hear Peta expressing a word of concern on the plight of the unborn or the world's starving children. Instead, Peta is spending millions of dollars on a campaign to eliminate the world's zoos.

—KYE PARSONS,
kye_parsons@yahoo.com

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'ARREST WARRANT HITCH'

Release of top NPA suspect irks AFP

BUTUAN CITY—A COURT DECISION TO FREE an alleged ranking New People's Army (NPA) rebel in Caraga has generated sharp reactions from top military and police officials here.

Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said the release of suspected rebel leader Gene Prisco from government custody was a "demoralizing and frustrating event" for troops battling the communist insurgency.

On Thursday afternoon, police and military agents arrested Prisco, who has a P500,000 bounty on his head, in a raid in his house in Barangay Tandang Sora here following a tip from a civilian.

But on Friday, a regional trial court judge ordered authorities to release him, citing an irregularity in the arrest warrant.

In his order, Judge Francisco Maclang of Regional Trial Court Brach 3 said Prisco, who was indicted for the non-bailable offense of robbery with homicide and rebellion, was not the right person named in the warrant.

For his part, Caraga police director Chief Supt. Geary Barias, who earlier hailed Prisco's arrest during a media briefing, called the release order a "setback."

A police intelligence official, who requested anonymity, lamented that Maclang's decision was an affront to the government's "all-out war" against the communist rebels.

"Why didn't he consider our painstaking effort just to arrest an elusive rebel? This is ridiculous," he lamented.

Barias maintained that they had a case against Prisco, whom he tagged as the deputy secretary of the Northeastern Mindanao Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Barias said Prisco was identified as the one who led a raid on the Carmen town police station in Agusan del Norte sometime in 2003, in which rebels ransacked the station's armory and killed a civilian employee.

Barias said the police would file a motion before the court to reconsider its decision.

"We will present new evidence because we are confident he is No. 2 in the ranks of NPA in Caraga," he said.

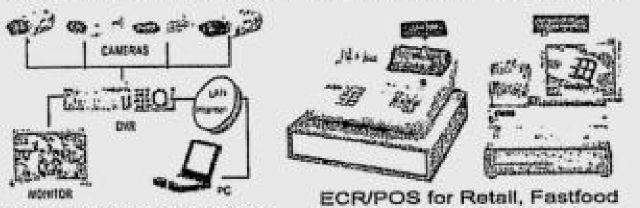
But Prisco, 36, formerly the spokesperson for Caraga of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna, said the accusations hurled against him were baseless.

He said he worked as a labor organizer and never went underground.

Simbajon hoped that the fiasco brought about by Prisco's release would teach them lessons on the need to strengthen the "legal offensives" against the rebels.

"This gives us (Army and police) lessons to strengthen our evidence in filing cases against rebels so that next time there will be no more hitches," he said.

Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau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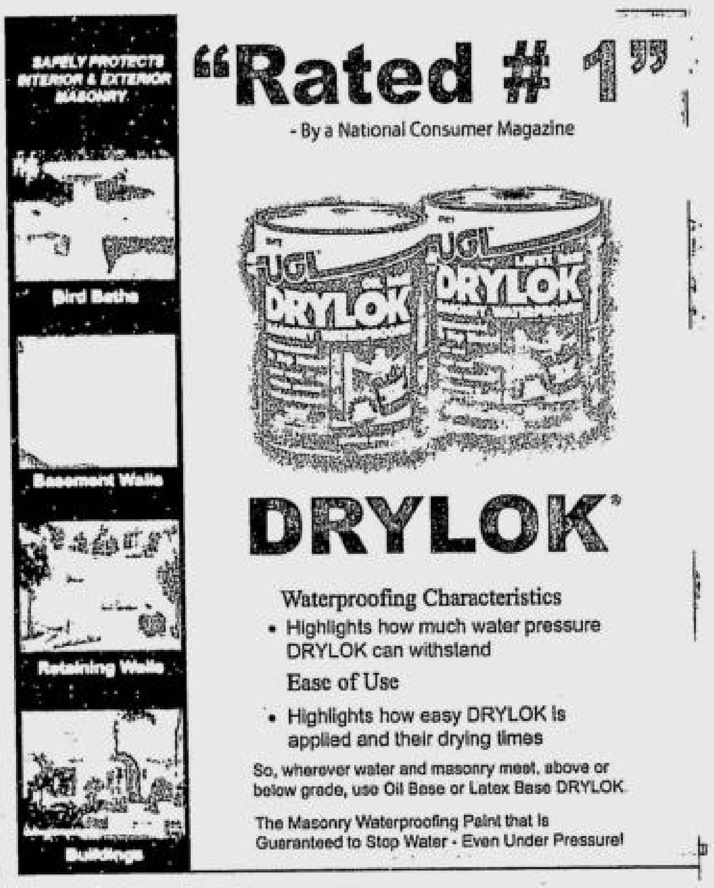
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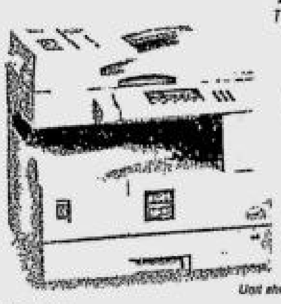
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DENR stops construction of building in Panglao

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—THE DEpartment of Environment and Natural Resources has stopped the construction of a three-story building at a resort in Panglao owned by the town mayor for violations of environmental laws.

In a cease-and-desist order, Alan Arranguez, acting DENR regional director also imposed a P50,000 fine on Mayor Doloreich Dumaluan, the project proponent.

The order, issued on June 21 and released the next day, stemmed from a complaint lodged against Dumaluan for allegedly operating his resort without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The mayor was accused of violating Presidential Decree No. 1586, known as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System Act, and DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-30, which provided the implementing rules of the decree.

Arranguez also suspended the processing of the ECC application filed by Dumaluan. Records showed that Dumaluan filed an application on May 8, 2003 but this was returned to him on May 29, 2003 due to lack of proof of ownership and endorsements from the barangay council of Bolod.

The mayor resubmitted his ECC application twice—on Aug. 19, 2004 and Nov. 16, 2004—before it was approved on Dec. 28, 2004. The DENR, however, said the certificate could not be released until he had paid the penalty for constructing a building in his resort without an ECC.

Nearly a year later, Dumaluan sent a letter requesting reconsideration of the penalty. He claimed that he did apply for an ECC in 1998 but that the DENR lost his paper.

On Jan. 18, the head of the DENR's Environmental Impact Assessment Division in the region, William Cuñado, recommended that the penalty be reduced but should be imposed because Dumaluan started implementing the project even before filing his ECC application.

In April, Dumaluan was found to have violated Section 4 of PD 1586 for implementing his project without an ECC, but the mayor refused to receive the DENR resolution when it was served on May 5.

On June 14, the department discovered another violation: The building has encroached on a portion of the 20-meter easement zone.

The latest cease-and-desist order noted that Dumaluan refused to receive a previous resolution dated April 21 when it was served by a DENR staff member at his office on May 5.

Massive campaign to turn 5 regions, 2 islands 'green'

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo is now talking "green."

She wants the five regions and two islands to become not just a center of tourism but also a center of what she called as the "Green Philippines" or Berdeng Pilipinas.

"We must take back our forest and replenish fallen trees with new, protected forests to protect our land and our people. We must reforest that land and bring back the beauty of the Philippines we all love and want," Arroyo said in her opening statement Friday before the start of the joint Cabinet and five Regional Development Councils at the Malacañang sa Sugbo.

"We need the leadership of Central Philippines to move the rest of the country to embrace this new clean, Green Philippines," she added.

Competitive advantage

The meeting, attended by local officials from the Visayas and Southern Luzon, was to map out strategies to enhance the competitive advantage of these areas called Central Philippines.

These five regions—Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Central Visayas, Southern Tagalog (B) or the island provinces, Bicol Region and Mindanao's islands of Dapitan and Siargao comprised Central Philippines, which is being positioned as the country's tourism center due to its vast coastal and marine resources.

"To their competitive advantage, we will bolster education, invest in infrastructure and encourage greater tourism investments and business process outsourcing in Cebu and its immediate neighbors like Dumaguete (City in Negros Oriental) to name only a few," she said.

President Arroyo, however, has more plans for this part of the Philippines and she wanted the officials to take the lead.

Discussed during the meeting was the President's "Green Philippines," a massive environmental campaign that will take place within the next five years.

"I want to turn our coral reefs and beaches, the wonder of the world, into national parks and international sanctuaries for ecotourism and scientific research," she told her audience composed of Cabinet secretaries, Central Philippines' elected officials and other government officials.

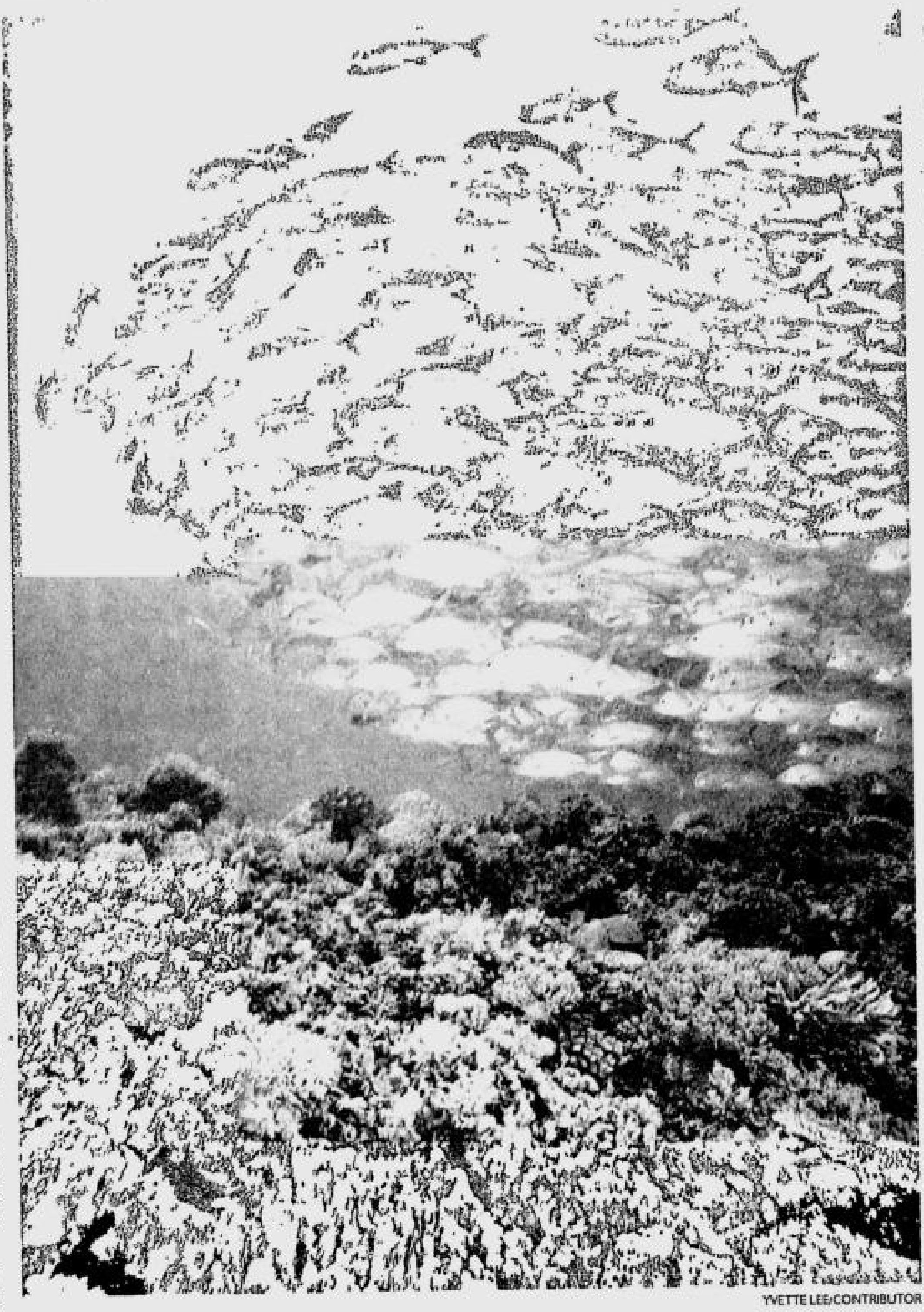
Chance to develop

"We have the chance to develop our nation right from the start: Clean, healthy, productive and beautiful," she added.

She said she wanted to tap the enthusiasm of everyone to clean up the environment. These include beautifying the villages and cities of trash, build more parks and recreation centers in urban areas, purifying the water and cleaning up industrial sites that are eyesores and unhealthy.

"As part of my Green Philippines, I want an energy efficient nation, free from reliance on costly and exhaust-spewing cars and smokestacks," Ms Arroyo said.

Part of the plan is to harness alternative sources of energy like solar, wind and geothermal and to produce clean fuels like biofuel to stop the country's reliance on foreign suppliers.



YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

COLORFUL corals serve as the play pen of a school of jacks ("talakitok") near the Delsan wreck off the South Islet in the Tubbataha National Marine Park. Increased user fees provided by the underwater visitors have enabled the park rangers to continue their seaborne patrols despite the high fuel costs.

China pours at least $1B for mining

COMPOSTELA, COMPOSTELA Valley—Chinese investors will be pouring huge investments in the province's mining and agriculture sectors, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced here on Saturday.

Ms Arroyo was in town for the launching of the government-funded plant culture tissue laboratory here, which was aimed at improving the variety of seeds, which farmers in the province plant.

Two of the country's largest mines are in the province—the Diwalwal mining area and the Maco mining area in Maco town.

"There are two big investors in China who will bring in at least $1 billion for the said sectors here in (Compostela Valley)," the President said in Visayan during her speech.

J.P. Zhao, one of the two Chinese businessmen who joined Ms Arroyo's entourage, said Chinese investors saw the huge potentials of the province's mining and agriculture industries.

Zhao told reporters that aside from mining and agriculture Chinese investors are also looking at the possibility of investing in the telecommunications industry.

Compostela Rep. Manuel Zamora said what interested the Chinese most was the huge potential of mining in the province.

He said one of the areas considered by Chinese investors was the Maco gold mines.

Zamora said that during his talks with some Chinese investors he had told them they were welcome provided they would not use the open-pit system.

"I am not against large-scale mining as long as it's not the open pit type," Zamora said. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Ghost' forest projects near rice terraces probed

BAGUIO CITY—THE OFFICE OF the Ombudsman is investigating reports that a P5.6-million government forestry program near a rice terraces community in Mountain Province has financed non-existent forests between 2000 and 2003.

The Ombudsman has scheduled for hearing a May 11 complaint filed by three residents of Barangay Maligcong in Bontoc town.

Jeffrey Pursen, William Todcor and Augustine Choycawen accused the administrators of the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (Charm) project and local officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of padding a report to facilitate the release of forest subsidy to contractor Maligcong Regreeners Development Association Inc. (MRDAI).

Only 10 percent of the project area had been planted with trees, contrary to a 60-percent accomplishment rating the project gave itself in 2004, they claimed.

Charm is a special Asian Development Bank-financed project assigned to the Department of Agriculture. It had tasked the DENR to undertake the 360.5-hectare Maligcong reforestation project that is underwritten by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Charm director Cameron Odsey said he had looked into the complaints, based on a fact-finding report that unearthed anomalies that the "DENR should have already corrected."

He declined to discuss the corrective measures, but Odsey said Charm had relinquished administrative control over the project to DENR as soon as it started.

Odsey, however, was included in the Ombudsman complaint along with Nicanor Sapla, Malibcong reforestation project director, and several DENR Cordillera officials.

Todcor claimed that they took pains to cover up the anomaly even after he alerted the officials to discrepancies in the recorded MRDAI accomplishments.

In their affidavits, Todcor, Pursen and Choycawen claimed that the Charm officials even misled two ADB consultants in November 2005 into believing that the project was due for completion.

A Maligcong tree farmer's complaint reinforced Todcor's affidavit. Thomas Sadcopen said MRDAI contracted him to supply them with 200,000 citrus tree saplings for the project but he discovered that only 10 percent of these saplings were planted.

Sadcopen sued MRDAI for the balance of its P401,000-fee, despite the fact that he was registered as an MRDAI member without his consent, according to a fact-finding report of the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Governance (CCAGG).

The report concluded that the Maligcong project "was a failure," yet the official validation team gave it a 62-percent rating which allowed Charm and DENR to release the MRDAI's retention fee in 2004. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

4 towns near Mt. Bulusan get alarm bells

LEGAZPI CITY—RESIDENTS OF AT LEAST four towns in Sorsogon can now be alerted by bells should Mount Bulusan threaten to erupt again.

They have been instructed to listen for warning from bells, locally known as "*batingaw*," which are made from condemned oxygen tanks.

When struck with a metal bar, the *batingaw* sends a loud, sharp clang echoing to distant villages.

The 20 bells were donated by Smart Communications Inc. in support of the community-based early warning system being carried out by the National Disaster Coordinating Council, particularly the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) in Sorsogon.

They were assigned to the affected towns of Juban, Casiguran, Irosin and Bulusan.

In formal turnover ceremonies on July 3 at the Gallanosa National High School (GNHS) in Irosin, the town's mayor, Lilia Gonzales, expressed gratitude over the "invaluable" support being extended by various government and private entities to help the locality carry out its disaster-preparedness efforts more effectively.

Earlier, an earthquake drill was conducted by more than 3,000 students of the GNHS, together with their teachers and parents and personnel from concerned government line agencies at the school grounds.

EMPTY oxygen tanks are transformed into early warning devices or "batingaw" for villages threatened by volcanic eruption in Sorsogon. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Smart public affairs group head Ramon Isberto said that "from what we learned from our past experience in providing emergency communication assistance, we have now come to support community disaster preparedness efforts in hazard-prone areas."

The telecommunications firm has also donated radio equipment and distributed information leaflets on the community-based warning system in the municipalities of Real, Infanta and General Nakar in Quezon under the Reina project of the Phivolcs.

The three towns were battered by a series of floods and landslides in late November and December 2004 that left hundreds of people dead and millions of pesos worth of property destroyed.

OCD regional director Arnel Capili said the use of condemned oxygen tanks as bells was proven to be effective in Quezon in warning residents of floods and other calamities, even in the absence of electricity.

Resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta of the Lingñon Hill Observatory here said Alert Level 2 remained hoisted over Bulusan. The volcano has a total of nine episodes of ash explosion since March 21.

The latest occurred on June 20 when a massive column of ash spewed about 2 km into the sky from the crater, sending residents of surrounding areas fleeing for cover.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Palawan faces risk of foot-mouth disease, local officials reveal

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE illegal shipment of livestock and the vast unguarded coastline make Palawan vulnerable to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Despite the ban imposed on the shipping of livestock from FMD-affected areas like Luzon, some traders have managed to sneak livestock into the province.

Two weeks ago, authorities in Roxas town intercepted a shipment of 14 goats from Luzon, which were unloaded in the port of San Vicente, a northern municipality, by a boat from Manila.

The goats' trader claimed that port authorities in Manila had allowed the shipment, but local authorities found it without proper papers.

Shipment

Quarantine personnel of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Provincial Veterinary Office destroyed the shipment in Roxas. They burned the goats to ashes after killing them with a heavy dosage of vinegar.

On June 21, another boat from Batangas tried to unload six goats in the pier of Roxas, but local authorities discovered the shipment before it could be unloaded.

Municipal agriculturist Edgar Padul ordered the captain of the MV Our Lady of Manaoag to bring back the goats, owned by a certain Perlita Dadores, to their port of origin.

Upon arrival at the city port, the boat captain claimed that they threw the goats overboard.

However, a certain Boying Sabando, a concerned cattle raiser in Roxas, immediately informed the quarantine personnel in the city that four of the goats were found in Barangay Tumarbong, a coastal village of Roxas, and the other two were found wandering in the town proper.

The quarantine team of the local office of the BAI and the PVO proceeded immediately to Roxas and exterminated the goats in the same manner done to the previous batch.

In an interview with local station dyPR, Sabando said the surreptitious shipping of livestock to the northern coast of Palawan had been going on for some time, but local authorities, especially the municipal agriculturist of Roxas, were not vigilant.

Accusation

Padul belied the accusation of Sabando, saying the situation was caused by the laxity of the quarantine officers in the ports of Luzon who, despite the moratorium, allowed traders to ship livestock to Palawan.

The province's main airports and ports have been enforcing strict rules to maintain Palawan as an FMD-free province, but the vast coastline, where anybody could bring in livestock by boat, is difficult to monitor due to the lack of personnel of enforcement agencies.

At present, only Mindanao, Masbate and Palawan remain FMD-free in the country. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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BULACAN

BUL-L-20 - 2-Storey House & Lot
LA 460sqm; FA 452sqm
Lots 27 & 29, Block 18, San Marcos
Calumpit
2-storey residential building
Min. Bid Price: P 3,760,000

BUL-L-21 - Fabrication Site
LA 2,769sqm; FA 793sqm
San Marcos, Calumpit
Plant (landlocked)
Min. Bid Price: P 3,061,000

BUL-L-22 - House & Lot
LA 747sqm; FA 224sqm
Malibo Matanda, Pandi
2-storey residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 572,000

BUL-L-23 - House & Lot
LA 186sqm; FA 192sqm
Citation Homes, Bagbaguin, Meycauayan
2-storey residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 1,387,000

BUL-L-24 - 2-Storey House & Lot
LA 666sqm; FA 251sqm
Bo. Licod, Meycauayan
2-storey residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 1,264,000

BUL-L-25 - House & Lot
LA 757sqm; FA 360sqm
Jaena Sulok, Bgy. Saluysoy
Meycauayan; 2-storey residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 2,617,000

BUL-L-26 – 1-Storey House & Lot
LA 1,002sqm; FA 83sqm
Calawitan, San Ildefonso
1-storey residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 656,000

BUL-L-27 – Poultry
LA 51,394sqm
Bo. Lambakin, San Miguel
2 units of poultry houses; agricultural lot
Min. Bid Price: P 3,596,000

BUL-L-28 – Warehouse
LA 1,000sqm
Bagbaguin, Sta. Maria
Warehouse/residential bldg
Min. Bid Price: P 9,228,000

BUL-L-29 – Warehouse
LA 10,226sqm
National Rd., Bantug, San Miguel
2-storey residential bldg & warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 6,954,000

BUL-L-30 – Warehouse
LA 14,324sqm
Lot 3184 Makinabang, Baliuag
Warehouse/piggery
Min. Bid Price: P 7,925,000

BUL-L-31 - House & Lot
LA 918sqm; FA 128sqm
Bigte, Norzagaray
Single detached residential bungalow
Min. Bid Price: P 1,100,000

BUL-32 - House & Lot
LA 754sqm; FA 68sqm
Bigte, Norzagaray
Single detached residential bungalow
Min. Bid Price: P 590,000

BUL-L-33 - House & Lot
LA 396sqm; FA 91sqm
Dona Crispina Subd., Agnaya, Plaridel
3BR, residential bungalow
Min. Bid Price: P 677,000

BUL-L-34 - House & Lot
LA 366sqm; FA 200sqm
Banaba cor. Agoho St., Town & Country
North Executive Village, Marilao
Split level residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 1,742,000

BUL-L-37 – 2-Storey House & Lot
LA 474sqm; FA 400sqm
Along Gen. Alejo Ave. Parulan, Plaridel
2-storey house
Min. Bid Price: P 3,698,000

BUL-L-38 - Warehouse
LA 49,114sqm
Along National Road, Matimbubong
San Ildefonso
Warehouse bldg
Min. Bid Price: P 36,400,000

BUL-L-39 – Warehouse
LA 4,790sqm; FA 824sqm
Along National Road, Matimbubong
San Ildefonso
2 warehouse bldg & an office
Min. Bid Price: P 6,200,000

BUL-V-12 - Vacant Lot
LA 20,447sqm
Bo. Matictic, Norzagaray, Bulacan
Vacant agricultural lot (landlocked)
Min. Bid Price: P 1,950,000

BUL-V-13 - Vacant Lot
LA 35,812sqm
Sta. Lucia, San Miguel, Bulacan
Vacant agricultural lot
Min. Bid Price: P 1,343,000

BUL-V-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,545sqm
Sta. Lucia, San Miguel, Bulacan
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 382,000

BUL-V-15 - Vacant Lot
LA 3,066sqm
Sta. Lucia, San Miguel, Bulacan
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 690,000

BUL-V-16 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,147sqm
Lot 1 Cagayan Valley Road, Makinabang,
Baliga, Bulacan; piggery
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

BUL-V-17 - Vacant Lot
LA 250sqm
Phase 1, Northfields Exec.Village,
Longos, Malolos, Bulacan; residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 740,000

PAMPANGA

SAN FERNANDO CITY

PAM-L-3 - House & Lot
LA 300sqm; FA 149.25sqm
#67 Quebiawan
4 bedrooms residential bungalow
Min. Bid Price: P 906,000

PAM-L-4 - House & Lot
LA 136sqm; FA 117sqm
Camia St., San Pedro Cutud
2-storey residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 612,000

PAM-L-5 – Building
LA 970sqm; FA 1,140sqm
Along McArthur Highway, Dolores
2-storey commercial building
Min. Bid Price: P 16,000,000

OTHERS

PAM-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 160sqm; FA 167sqm
Poblacion, Masantol
2-storey residential bldg.
Min. Bid Price: P 320,000

PAM-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 31,383sqm
San Rafael & Prado, Lubao
33 agri/industrial vacant lots
Min. Bid Price: P 2,041,000

PAM-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 25,340sqm
San Rafael & Prado, Lubao
Vacant agri/industrial lot
Min. Bid Price: P 1,478,000

NUEVA ECIJA

CABANATUAN CITY

NE-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 390sqm; FA 36sqm
L7 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikid Sur
1-storey residential building
Min. Bid Price: P 391,000

NE-L-4 - House & Lot
LA 22,502sqm; FA 5,436sqm
AGL Heights, Kalikid Sur
254 parcel of lots (house and lot; lots may be sold individually)
Min. Bid Price: P 26,692,000

NE-L-5 - House & Lot
LA 203sqm; FA 109sqm
#92 Avocado st, Villa Benita Subd.
3 bedroom residential bungalow
Min. Bid Price: P 626,000

NE-L-8 - Com'l/Res'l
LA 295sqm; FA 390sqm
Along Sanciangco St.
Commercial/residential bldg.
Min. Bid Price: P 4,335,000

NE-L-9 – Warehouse
LA 5,751sqm; FA 5,328sqm
Along Maharlika Highway, Bo. Bernardo
Warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 52,443,000

NE-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 370sqm
Kalikid Sur
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 97,000

NE-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 375sqm
Kalikid Sur
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 98,000

NE-V-3 - Vacant Lot
LA 371sqm
Kalikid Sur
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 97,000

NE-V-4 - Vacant Lot
LA 339sqm
Bantug Norte
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 82,000

NE-V-5 - Vacant Lot
LA 219sqm
Bantug
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 246,000

NE-V-6 - Vacant Lot
LA 390sqm
L2 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikid Sur
Residential/commercial vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 294,000

NE-V-7 - Vacant Lot
LA 390sqm
L6 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikid Sur
Residential/commercial vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 294,000

NE-V-8 - Vacant Lot
LA 390sqm
L5 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikid Sur
Residential/commercial vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 294,000

NE-V-9 - Vacant Lot
LA 390sqm
L4 B5, Magsaysay Park, Kalikid Sur
Residential/commercial vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 241,000

NE-V-10 - Vacant Lot
LA 230sqm
Leo-Gornica Homesite, DS Garcia
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 431,000

NE-V-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 960sqm
Along Melencio St., Poblacion
Vacant-commercial lot
Min. Bid Price: P 8,640,000

OTHERS

NE-L-1 – Warehouse
LA 9,536sqm
National Highway, San Mariano
Sta. Rosa
2 industrial warehouse bldg.
Min. Bid Price: P 8,157,000

NE-L-6 – Warehouse
LA 276sqm
A. Salvador st., Poblacion, Guimba
Warehouse building
Min. Bid Price: P 523,000

NE-L-7 – Apartment
LA 960sqm; FA 472sqm
Christianville Subd., Abar 1st
San Jose City
8 door, 2-storey apartment
Min. Bid Price: P 3,932,000

TARLAC

TAR-L-1 – Building
LA 2,872sqm; FA 2,872sqm
Ramos rd., Balite, Pura, Tarlac
1-storey residential building
Min. Bid Price: P 475,000

TAR-L-4 - Commercial Building
LA 1,405sqm; FA 1,405sqm
JRT Bldg., MH Del Pilar st., cor. Hilario st., Tarlac City; 4 parcels of land with a 2-storey commercial building and a 3-storey office building with rooftop
Min. Bid Price: P 34,027,000

TAR-L-5 – Apartment
LA 1,404sqm; FA 904sqm
La Mita Homes, Calle Lucinda, San Sebastian, Tarlac City
11 door 2-storey apartment
Min. Bid Price: P 5,972,000

TAR-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 240sqm
Lot 2233-K Prov'l road, San Roque, La Paz, Tarlac . vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 45,000

TAR-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 54,721sqm
Bg. San Roque, La Paz, Tarlac
3 parcels of agri lots
Min. Bid Price: P 1,642,000

BATAAN

BAT-L-2 House & Lot
LA 718sqm; FA 327sqm
Balon Anito, Manveles
Split level bungalow
Min. Bid Price: P 1,641,000

BAT-L-3 - House & Lot
LA 900sqm; FA 314sqm
Q. Ville Subd., Daang Bilolo
2-storey residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 3,609,000

BAT-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,039sqm
Ibabao, Morong
5 vacant residential lots
Min. Bid Price: P 582,000

BAT-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 485sqm
Sabang, Morong
2 vacant residential lots
Min. Bid Price: P 272,000

BAT-V-3 - Vacant Lot
LA 393sqm
Prov. Road, Nagbalayong, Morong
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 252,000

CAGAYAN

CAG-L-1 – Warehouse
LA 500sqm; FA 325
Gonzaga ext., Ugac Norte
Tuguegarao City
Improved by warehouse with quarters
Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000

CAG-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 2,761sqm; FA 137sqm
Linao road, Cantan Sur, Tuguegarao City
Single-storey building
Min. Bid Price: P 4,282,000

CAG-L-3 – Warehouse
LA 1,687sqm
Mungo, Tuao, Cagayan
With warehouse, office (3 lots)
Min. Bid Price: P 1,658,000

CAG-L-4 - H&L, Warehouse
LA 3,049sqm; FA 1,713sqm
Alabug, Tuao, Cagayan
With warehouse, residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 3,829,000

CAG-L-5 – Warehouse
LA 1,000sqm; FA 306sqm
Maddarulog, Solana, Cagayan
With warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 240,000

CAG-L-6 - House & Lot
LA 2,837.5sqm; FA 130sqm
Gulsing, Gattaran
2-storey residential bldg
Min. Bid Price: P 615,000

ISABELA

CAUAYAN CITY

IS-L-6 - House & Lot
LA 1,669sqm; FA 1,206sqm
Puzon subd., San Fermin
W/ residential house
Min. Bid Price: P 704,000

IS-L-7 – Warehouse
LA 7,668sqm; FA 1,206sqm
Minante
Shed type warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 5,626,000

IS-L-8 - Cockpit/Sports Center
LA 35,000sqm; FA 35,000sqm
Unirrigated riceland
Min. Bid Price: P 6,750,000

IS-L-9 – Poultry
LA 7,772sqm; FA 328sqm
Minante II
With poultry houses
Min. Bid Price: P 1,070,000

IS-V-16 - Vacant Lot
LA 403sqm
San Fermin
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 212,000

IS-V-17 - Vacant Lot
LA 408sqm;
San Fermin
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 214,000

IS-V-18 - Vacant Lot
LA 520sqm
National Highway, Poblacion
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 1,560,000

IS-V-19 - Vacant Lot
LA 528sqm
National Highway, Poblacion
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 1,584,000

IS-V-20 - Vacant Lot
LA 8,000sqm
Minante II
Residential/agri lot
Min. Bid Price: P 2,754,000

IS-V-21 - Vacant Lot
LA 15,000sqm; FA 1,278sqm
Nungnungan
Agricultural lot with piggery
Min. Bid Price: P 7,150,000

IS-V-23 - Vacant Lot
LA 966sqm
Airport Road San Fermin
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

IS-V-24 - Vacant Lot
LA 6,188sqm
Minante I
Vacant residential lots (2 lots)
Min. Bid Price: P 991,000

SANTIAGO CITY

IS-L-10 - Poultry Farm
LA 15,794sqm
Balintocalo; poultry farm with poultry Houses, warehouse, office
Min. Bid Price: P 5,064,000

IS-L-11 - House & Lot
LA 283sqm; FA 283sqm
Quezon Ave., Victory Sur
Improved with dilapidated house
Min. Bid Price: P 679,000

IS-V-26 - Vacant Lot
LA 180sqm
Valley Homes, Patul
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 135,000

IS-V-27 - Vacant Lot
LA 180sqm
Valley Homes, Patul
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 135,000

IS-V-28 - Vacant Lot
LA 453sqm
Patul road cor. Espiritu st., Plaridel
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 374,000

IS-V-29 - Vacant Lot
LA 434sqm
Patul road cor. Espiritu st., Plaridel
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 358,000

IS-V-30 - Vacant Lot
LA 445sqm
Patul road cor. Espiritu st., Plaridel
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 367,000

IS-V-31 - Vacant Lot
LA 412sqm
Ramos
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 170,000

OTHERS

IS-L-1 – Warehouse
LA 2,686sqm
J P Rizal Ave., Bugallon, Ramon
With warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 1,554,000

IS-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 1,200sqm; FA 288sqm
Calamagui 1st, Ilagan
House & lot w/ warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 2,700,000

IS-L-3 – Warehouse
LA 1,497sqm; FA 728sqm
Concepcion st., Roxas Dist., Nagullian
Residential lot with house & warehouse (3 TCTS)
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

IS-L-4 - H&L, Warehouse
LA 2,806sqm; FA 595sqm
Centro Cabagan
two adjoined lots, improved by a Residential bldg and a warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 2,240,000

IS-L-5 - House & Lot
LA 1,928sqm; FA 186sqm
(encroached by NIA) Ipil, Echague
W/ split type building
Min. Bid Price: P 901,000

IS-L-12 – Warehouse
LA 1,505sqm
Bo. Dipantan, Naglipunan, Quirino
1-storey warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 696,000

IS-L-13 - H&L, Warehouse
LA 374sqm; FA 361sqm
District 1 , San Manuel
2-storey residential w/ warehouse
Min. Bid Price: P 1,050,000

IS-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 24,981sqm
Bgy. Rd., Arabiat, Echague
Agri land with improvements (no value)
Min. Bid Price: P 200,000

IS-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 984sqm
Mun. Rd., Near Luna St., Poblacion, Roxas
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 315,000

IS-V-3 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,350sqm
Dallig, Aurora
4 vacant residential lots
Min. Bid Price: P 804,000

IS-V-4 - Vacant Lot
LA 640sqm
Bo. Sta. Rita, Bagong Linis, Aurora
Vacant residential lots
Min. Bid Price: P 360,000

IS-V-5 - Vacant Lot
LA (interior lot) 53,519sqm
Callao, Alicia
Irrigated rice land
Min. Bid Price: P 650,000

IS-V-7 - Vacant Lot
LA 1198sqm
Quirino st., Alicia
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 430,000

IS-V-8 - Vacant Lot
LA 968sqm
Calaoacan, Alicia
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

IS-V-10 - Vacant Lot
LA 480sqm
Bagong Linis, Aurora
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 288,000

IS-V-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 294sqm
Tuguegarao, Echague
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 50,000

IS-V-12 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,009sqm
Bantug, Roxas
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 1,700,000

IS-V-13 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,900sqm
National Highway, Bantug, Roxas
Vacant residential lot
Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000

IS-V-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 960sqm
Bantug, Roxas
vacant residential lot (3 lots)
Min. Bid Price: P 500,000

ANTIPOLO

PARK-AV-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 446sqm
Lot 7 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 602,100

PARK-AV-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 493sqm
Lot 3 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 665,550

PARK-AV-3 - Vacant Lot
LA 365sqm
Lot 4 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 547,500

PARK-AV-4 - Vacant Lot
LA 475sqm
Lot 5 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 641,250

PARK-AV-5 - Vacant Lot
LA 404sqm
Lot 6 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 606,000

PARK-AV-6 - Vacant Lot
LA 399sqm
Lot 8 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 598,500

PARK-AV-7 - Vacant Lot
LA 476sqm
Lot 9 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 642,600

PARK-AV-8 - Vacant Lot
LA 407sqm
Lot 11 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 610,500

PARK-AV-9 - Vacant Lot
LA 413sqm
Lot 12 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 619,500

PARK-AV-10 - Vacant Lot
LA 421sqm
Lot 13 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 568,350

PARK-AV-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 414sqm
Lot 14 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 621,000

PARK-AV-12 - Vacant Lot
LA 419sqm
Lot 15 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 565,650

PARK-AV-13 - Vacant Lot
LA 414.5sqm
Lot 16 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 621,750

PARK-AV-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 412sqm
Lot 17 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 618,000

PARK-AV-15 - Vacant Lot
LA 406sqm
Lot 18 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 609,000

PARK-AV-16 - Vacant Lot
LA 401sqm
Lot 19 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 601,500

PARK-AV-17 - Vacant Lot
LA 425sqm
Lot 20 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 637,500

PARK-AV-18 - Vacant Lot
LA 409sqm
Lot 21 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 613,500

PARK-AV-19 - Vacant Lot
LA 465sqm
Lot 22 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 697,500

PARK-AV-20 - Vacant Lot
LA 403sqm
Lot 23 Block 13 Parkridge Estates
Residential vacant lot
Min. Bid Price: P 604,500

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Camp Aquino's 'illegal' settlers face eviction raps

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—STARTING today, the military is filing eviction cases against 646 alleged illegal settlers in the reservation areas of Camp Aquino in Tarlac City, an official of the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) said on Sunday.

Nolcom chief of staff Col. Cesar Yano said at least 100 others are going to be spared from litigation as they have begun negotiations with Nolcom on their plans to leave or be accommodated in the command's housing project for soldiers.

Yano said Nolcom was taking legal action after the occupants ignored the July 5 deadline to vacate Zones A, B, C, Tarlac Veterans Village and Yabutan.

Nolcom reports said all 746 informal settlers there are comprised of the families of at least 286 retired soldiers, 220 active troops and 240 civilians.

Judge Arsenio Adriano of the Tarlac City Regional Trial Court denied last month the petition of the settlers to issue a temporary restraining order against the eviction.

The judge ruled that the lots were not among those included in the areas segregated for off-base housing through a memorandum issued by then President Joseph Estrada.

Only Lots 7609, 7711 and 7611-A were specified for off-base housing, Proclamation No. 331 dated June 2000 and Proclamation No. 563 dated March 2004 showed.

An effort by Eduardo Daet and other settlers to remain at the sites was also turned down by a Quezon City court last month.

It dismissed their petition asking the Armed Forces of the Philippines to comply with the Jan. 21, 2000 memorandum of the Office of the President directing the segregation of areas for off-base housing.

Yano said the court turned down the petition because it was filed six years after the memorandum was issued.

"No basis was also laid whether the presidential directive issued by then President Joseph Estrada in 2000 had been adopted by his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, at present," Yano said, citing the court order.

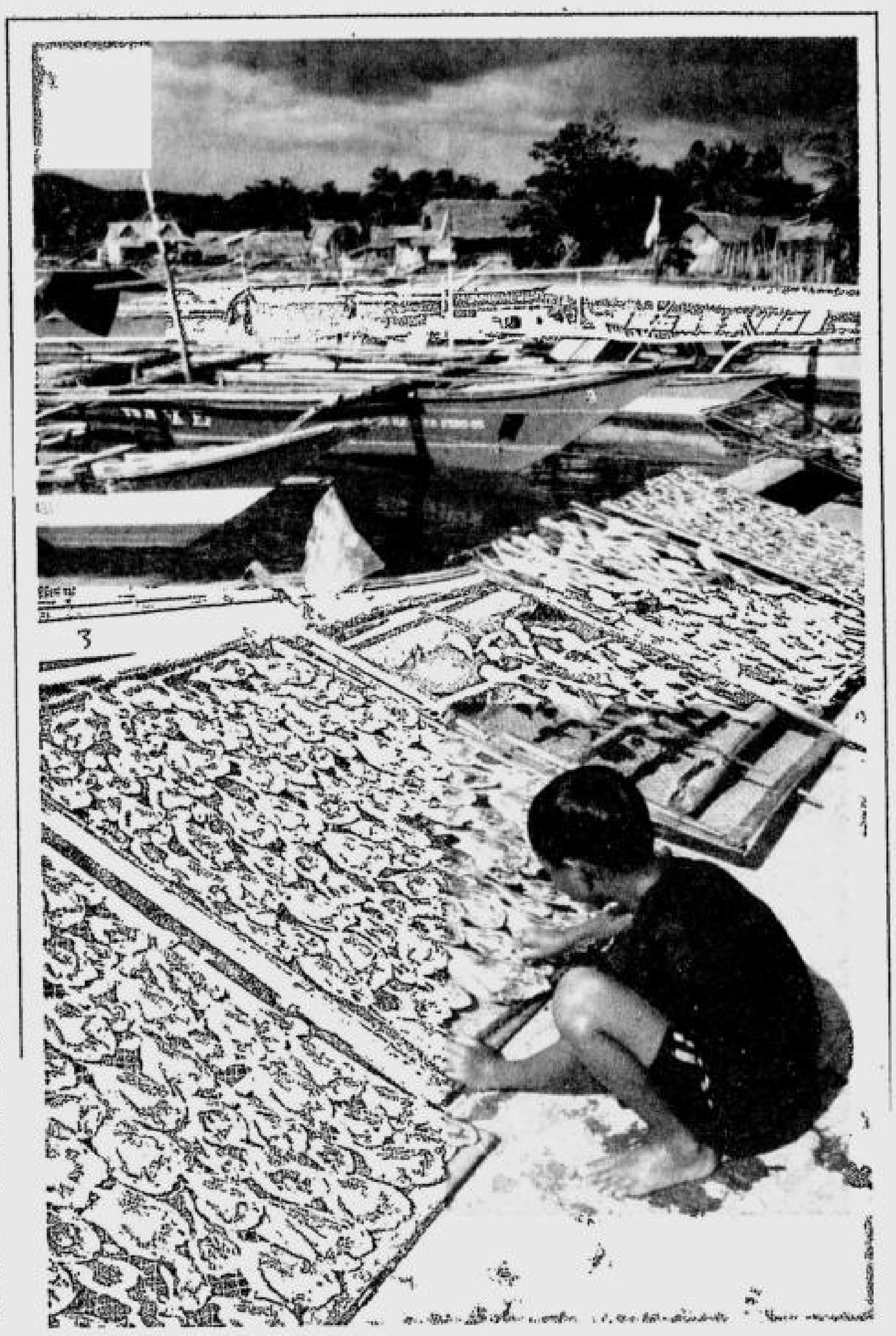
The petition was also dismissed because the petitioners did not exhaust administrative remedies with the AFP.

One of the settlers, a civilian who contacted the INQUIRER, reported fear. "The Army has been harassing us to leave the areas. They watch our movements or stake out in front of our homes," the source said.

Yano denied these were being done against those who had insisted on staying or had taken the issue to the courts.

"That's not true. If we believe we will succeed through that means, we will not waste time going through the legal process," he said.

Many of the settlers have claimed to be residents of the areas for more than 40 years. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



REAL LIFE PLAY THINGS

This boy checks the fish he is drying, to help his family cope in the coastal town of Magallanes, Sorsogon.

Taiwanese missing; 6 others rescued

CALAMBA CITY—A TAIWANESE went missing while five of his compatriots, including two youngsters, and a boat operator were rescued after the motorboat they were riding capsized off the waters of Taal Lake in Talisay, Batangas on Saturday.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, Calabarzon police director, identified the missing tourist as Pei-Chun Chang, alias Warren Chang, 42, a businessman from Taipei.

Noble said Talisay police chief Supt. Felix Sarsoso launched the search-and-rescue operation.

Rescued were boat operator Leonil Otora, 20, and tourists Min-Chuan Chan, 44; Yu-Hsia Huang, 39; Chia-Hao Yeh, 9; Yen-Feng Chan, 5; and Shu-Mei Yeh, 42.

Sarsoso said the group left the Taal Greenlake Resort in Talisay at around 9 a.m. together with 12 other Taiwanese to trek the Taal Lake crater.

He said while the group was halfway back from the volcano island at around 11:30 a.m., a huge wave caused by strong winds and torrential rains swept the left side of the boat, causing it to overturn.

"Fortunately, Otora was able to contact the other boat operators before their boat capsized. Fishermen in the area rescued the victims," Sarsoso told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

Sarsoso said they had put the boat operator under investigation to see if he violated any regulations and procedures regarding the safety of the tourists hiring their services.

The Taiwanese tourists were billeted at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Manila and visited Taal through a package tour organized by the Chuan Lien Travel and Tours.

The resort where the victims took off is owned by Talisay Vice Mayor Luis Malabanan. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Firms offer ₱10-₱12 wage hike to W. Visayas workers

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—CITING HIGH TAXes and operational costs, employers are offering a P10-P12 increase in daily minimum wage to workers in Iloilo, Guimaras and Negros Occidental, much lower than organized labor's demand of P75-P125.

A bigger raise would cripple businesses in the region, representatives of business groups told public hearings conducted by the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) here on Thursday and in Bacolod City on Wednesday.

The Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations-Negros Panay chapter will agree to just a P10 increase in cost of living allowance, while the National Federation of Sugarcane Producers proposes that instead of adjusting wages, the government's Social Amelioration Program should be strengthened to provide a wider range of benefits and more intensive and high-impact programs and services to farm workers and their dependents.

Roberto Montelibano, president of the Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry across the Visayas had agreed to support a wage increase based on an inflation rate of 6.3 percent.

Thus, if workers are receiving about P200 a day, the employers will support a wage increase of P12.50, he said.

The left-wing Kilusang Mayo Uno is pushing for congressional approval of a P125 increase in daily minimum wage for workers in the private sector and a P3,000 salary increase for government employees. Its members boycotted the public hearings and called for the scrapping of the regional wage boards.

"The wage boards have been inutile in addressing the interest of workers," said Wenefredo Dublezo, KMU spokesperson in Panay.

Labor groups affiliated with the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines are seeking a P75 increase in daily minimum wage.

In a position paper, labor representatives Wennie Sancho and Hernane Braza said the demand was justified based on the needs of workers in Western Visayas.

Minimum wage in the region is P205 per day, but Sancho and Braza said this was "not enough to provide even a poor man's daily meal." Poverty threshold for a family of six in the region this month is pegged at P225.14 per day, they said.

They said employers were capable of granting a P45-P75 increase, pointing out that the RTWPB in Western Visayas had approved the third lowest minimum wage to workers in the private sector although the region was richer than others which had granted higher amounts.

"Many businesses are just surviving and struggling to keep afloat," Maria Lea Lara, executive director of the Iloilo Business Club Inc., told the INQUIRER.

Lara said the sharp increase in real property taxes, coupled with the 12-percent expanded value-added tax and increases in fuel, transportation and power costs, had driven productions costs up.

"If we give an increase more than this amount, businesses will fold up," she said.

The position is shared by the Iloilo Multi-Sectoral Business Organization Inc., composed of nine organizations with more than 500 members; the Iloilo chapter of the Philippine Retailers Association, which groups around 60 supermarket and grocery owners and operators in Iloilo, and the Chamber of Commerce Iloilo Inc.

Arnaldo Borres, secretary of the Panay Fishing Boat Association, said the increase in taxes had affected both employers and workers. "We are practically being killed by taxes," he said during the hearing.

The labor representatives lamented that the 13 wage orders that the regional board issued since it was constituted in 1989 provided for increases ranging from only P12 to P16, which they called "cheap solicitations and bread crumbs."

Labor regional director Carlos Boteros said the board would try to come out with a wage order this month after the hearings in Capiz and Aklan.

4 soldiers, 2 rebels killed in encounter

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—Four Army soldiers and two New People's Army rebels were killed while three other soldiers were wounded in a July 7 encounter in Besao, Mountain Province, belated military reports said on Sunday.

Lt. Col. Leopoldo Galon Jr., spokesperson of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, did not identify the slain soldiers, saying they had yet to inform the victims' relatives. He did not also identify the slain rebels.

Galon said soldiers belonging to the Army's 54th Infantry Battalion encountered at least 50 NPA rebels while they were on patrol in Barangay Tambuan in Besao. He said the gun battle lasted 30 minutes.

Galon said heavy rains and poor visibility in Mountain Province on Saturday prevented soldiers from immediately retrieving the bodies of the slain soldiers.

In Abra, Galon said an NPA rebel, identified as Ka Karina, was killed in an encounter in Sallapadan town on the same day.

He said soldiers recovered two Armalite rifles, a handheld radio and antigovernment documents from the rebels.

Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo imposed a two-year deadline to crush the communist insurgency in the country. She ordered Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. to release P1 billion to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to fund their operations against the NPA.

The July 7 encounter in Mountain Province and Abra came a week after two encounters between government soldiers and NPA rebels broke out in Kalinga and Abra.

A statement from the NPA's Lejo Cawilan Command in Kalinga said a soldier of the Army's 21st IB was killed while two others were wounded on June 29 during a firefight with rebels in the boundary of Lubuagan and Tanudan towns in Kalinga.

But Galon said their reports indicated that no soldier was killed in that clash. He said a soldier, identified only as Corporal Baliling, was wounded in that incident.

Tipon Gil-ayab, spokesperson of the Lejo Cawilan Command, said they attacked the soldiers to oppose the military's operations in the boundaries of Tabuk, Lubuagan and Tanudan towns. *Villamor Visaya Jr. and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Enforcement of child protection laws pushed

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—DESPITE the 20 national laws safeguarding the children in the country and the "excellent response" of government officials to children issues, the work to protect them is nowhere near done, according to Unicef Representative Nicholas Alipui.

During the North Luzon legislative summit for children, Alipui also acknowledged that the Filipino society is nurturing and caring and concerned about the welfare of the children.

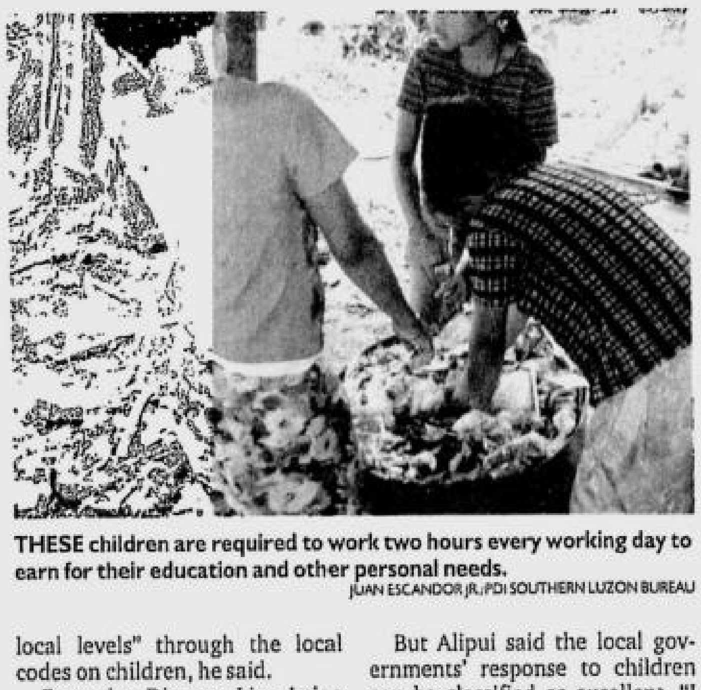
But despite the nurturing environment and the laws protecting children, "an increasing number of children are falling through the cracks because of the deepening poverty and widening deprivation and disparities," Alipui said.

"Some children in certain disadvantaged communities are not having the same development experiences like the other children in other countries. These are the children who are not able to go through quality elementary education and who live in communities which are not able to send them through early child care programs," he said.

The country has 20 national laws on the rights of the children but the implementation of these laws still has to "find resonance and concrete application at the local levels" through the local codes on children, he said.

Executive Director Lina Laigo of the Council for the Welfare for Children said the country has to work on the implementation of the national children laws. "We are still struggling with some laws like on breastfeeding," she said.

The three-day summit, which ended on Thursday, aimed to come up with a local code on children in Northern Luzon.



THESE children are required to work two hours every working day to earn for their education and other personal needs.

JUAN ESCANDOR JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

But Alipui said the local governments' response to children can be classified as excellent. "I have no doubt in my mind that the political will is there. I never met any official who struck me as insensitive to the [plight of] children. It's just a question of political choices, of prioritizing affirmative actions to target that segment of community lagging behind," he said.

Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino said Pangasinan is crafting a children's code which "is adaptable to our particular situation."

Alipui said 1.7 million babies are added to the population every year. "To provide for nearly two million [children] is almost like running in a conveyor belt moving in a different direction. The sheer demand on basic social services is enormous," he said.

He added: "We need to redouble our efforts and expand the services in terms of food investments and training of human resources and infrastructure to meet the increasing demand placed on the system."

He said early child care and development and preschool have been set by law but only one of three children is able to go though preschool.

But the problem does not end there. Another issue that the local legislature must tackle is the decline in the quality of elementary education, Alipui said.

"The ability to go to school and stay the course and excel in math, science, Filipino and English is declining over the years. We have seen classrooms with hundreds of students and very little learning [is] taking place. It is clear that children who are poorer have inferior quality education," he said.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 10, 2006
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Hos 2:16, 17-18, 21-22
Gospel: Matthew 9:18-26

While Jesus was speaking to them, an official of the synagogue came up to him, bowed before him and said, "My daughter has just died, but come and place your hands on her, and she will live." Jesus stood up and followed him with his disciples.

Then a woman who had suffered from a severe bleeding for twelve years came up from behind and touched the edge of his cloak. For she thought, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned, saw her and said, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you." And from that moment the woman was cured.

When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the excited crowd, he said, "Get out of here! The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping!" And they laughed at him. But once the crowd had been turned out, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up. The news of this spread through the whole area.

Commentary

Hosea is the prophet of return, of being lured back into the arms of God though we are wanderers and harlots intent on our own loves, ways and wants. God's word in Hosea is sad, longing, even wistful of what was when they were close in the desert, and hopes for intimacy with his people again. God longs for our faithfulness and justice so that he can give us love and mercy in return. And Jesus wants to give even more, an intimacy that frees from death, life ever more abundant, healing from our disease and social illnesses (how we feed on death and the suffering of others) God so longs for us to be near him.

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Withdrawal of support depends on AFP unity

From page A1

bolism, the civilian component of the junta to disguise its military muscle, the stage from which the rising would start (a multisectoral opposition mass meeting on Ayala Avenue, Makati City) and a political program of a transition provisional government.

But on the planned D-Day, Feb. 24, things suddenly went wrong. The events did not cooperate with the script. The details suddenly went haywire and did not fall into their proper places in the scheme.

Instead of the video hugging the attention of the nation, the target of all these preparations trumped the grand conspiracy. The President caught the plotters wrong-footed by proclaiming a state of national emergency (Presidential Proclamation No. 1017), seizing the initiative.

Tragicomic opera

In one single stroke, the conspiracy collapsed and instantly became a tragicomic opera. To cap this irony, the video was broadcast at the wrong time—five months after the plot's zero hour.

The fallout from the showing of the video by ABS-CBN, a media network seen to be hostile of Ms Arroyo, did not serve to validate the administration's claim that the footage justified the President's emergency proclamation.

The Supreme Court has already struck down key provisions of PP 1017 as illegal and unwarranted.

The release of the footage neither appears to help Ms Arroyo decisively in thwarting the new impeachment complaints laid against her in Congress nor reverse the slide of her popularity ratings.

On the other hand, the footage has wrought havoc on conspiratorial groups, named in the video as key figures in the aborted Feb. 24 coup attempt.

The fallout has sent the alleged conspirators in disarray and scampering for cover and trying to save their own necks from retribution by the regime.

In the aftermath of the disclosure, people like Roy Señeres, and even General Lim, have come forward to reveal new facts on the conspiracy and new names that had not been previously revealed to the public or that presumably had not been known by the administration.

Flurry of denials

A flurry of denials has come from those named by Señeres as involved in the plot to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo. Among them were former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, businessman Iñigo Zobel, former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, ABC-5 chair Antonio Cojuangco, and construction magnate F.F. Cruz.

The justice department has issued subpoenas to these alleged plotters so they may face investigation into their alleged involvement after they had been betrayed by Señeres, who has admitted in an interview with the INQUIRER he had, as well as those he ratted on, encouraged Lim to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

The air is now filled with recriminations over his fellow conspirators' attempt to wash their hands after the collapse of the conspiracy of Feb. 24. Even General Lim has suggested that he had been used by civil society groups which had waged a campaign to oust Ms Arroyo since June 2005.

The disclosure of the video and the reactions that followed have revealed a more extensive web of the conspiracy than had been thought.

Who's gaining?

This assessment of the effects of the fallout from the video goes beyond determining who's gaining from the backlash. It highlights a few lessons that might be drawn by the public on the revelations of the footage. I summarize them:

- The collapse of the Feb. 24 coup attempt suffered the fate of a chain of attempts to topple the Arroyo administration starting on May 1, 2001, when supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada stormed Malacañang.

The attempts following it—the Oakwood Mutiny, the disclosure of the Garcillano tapes in June 2004, the July 2005 Cabinet defections, the attempt to incite "people power" after the dismissal of the impeachment complaint in the House in September last year—were based on two wrong assumptions and gross miscalculations: Ms Arroyo was a pushover and their moves would get wide public support.

General Lim et al. and the Feb. 24 conspirators never learned these lessons. They didn't know their enemy. Military men have been drilled these basic lesson as the key to military success.

The conspirators underestimated Ms Arroyo's capacity to react, seize the initiative, and use the vast powers of the presidency.

The plotters overestimated their assets, many of them hypothetical and unreliable, such as civilian components.

Plans too loose

- As a result of these romantic, false assumptions, the plotters made plans that were too loose, that involved too many players with different and contradictory objectives, and failed to take into account unforeseen developments.
- As in the February 1986 mutiny that sparked Edsa I, and in Edsa II, the success of the Feb. 24 conspiracy rested on the pinhead of military withdrawal of support from the existing regime.

At the best of times, withdrawal is extremely uncertain; it depends on the state of military unity at a time of political crisis. Whose side the chain of command would take was uncertain up to Feb. 23.

What the video tells us is that civil society groups are mounted astride a knife's edge when they entrust the success of their political movement for change on the man on horseback.

(What went wrong on Feb. 24 will be examined in my next article.)

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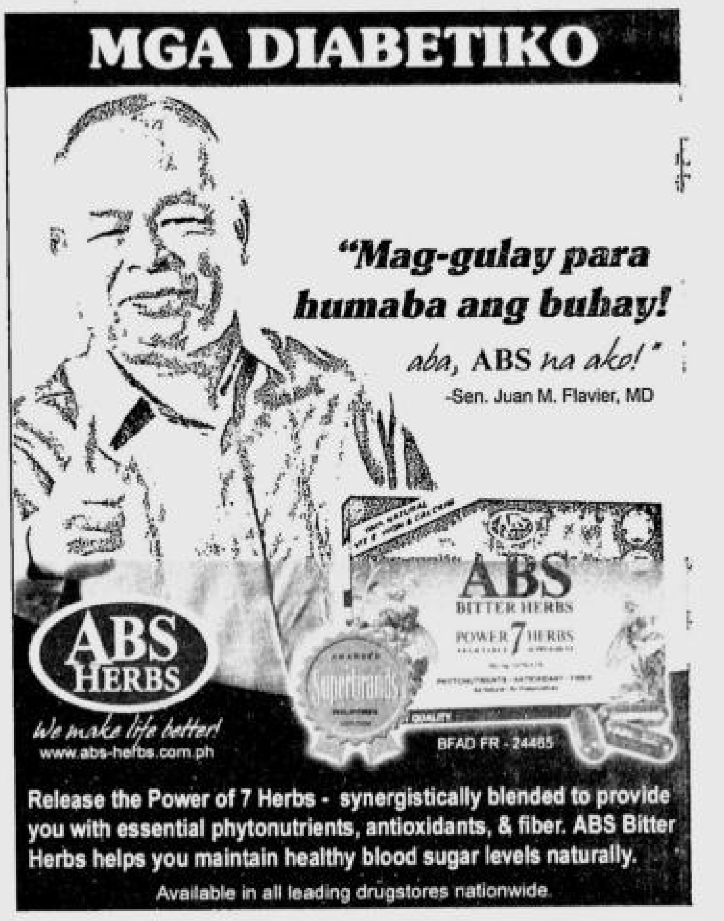
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The Metropolitan Cebu Water District ("MCWD") is inviting potential proponents/bidders/challengers to express their interest in the prospective solicitation of comparative or competitive proposals ("Swiss Challenge") to finance, design, construct, own, operate and maintain raw water abstraction, treatment and transmission facilities intended to extract and treat raw water principally from the Luyang-Cantumog River located in the Municipality of Carmen, Cebu Province, and deliver up to 46,000 cubic meters per day of bulk potable water through a transmission pipeline to the MCWD distribution system under a suitable public-private partnership agreement for a fixed concession period ("Project"). The Project is being developed and procured following the unsolicited proposal process prescribed under Republic Act No. 6957, as amended, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations ("BOT Law"). The original proponent of the Project, whose unsolicited proposal will be the subject of the Swiss Challenge, is the Ayala Corp./Manila Water Co./Stateland, Inc. Consortium.

MCWD, through the BOT Center of the Department of Trade and Industry, has engaged the International Finance Corporation ("IFC") as its transaction advisor for this Project.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the BOT Law and Section 2.5 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, all interested parties are asked to signify their interest and register as possible proponents/bidders/challengers by submitting to MCWD (copy furnished IFC), at the addresses indicated below, their letter of intent and company profile with the following information:

1. Name of proponent
2. Business address/tel. no./fax no./email address
3. Number of years in operation
4. Organizational and ownership structure
5. Field of specialization
6. Key personnel (corporate officers and key staff members)
7. List of completed projects (brief description, types of services, location, project cost/contract amount, implementation period, client) and
8. Latest audited fianancial statements (income statement and balance sheet)

All expressions of interest must be submitted on or before July 28, 2006. Duly registered proponents will be entitled to receive project updates from MCWD.

THIS INVITATION OR CALL FOR REGISTRATION IS NOT THE START OF THE FORMAL SOLICITATION OF COMPARATIVE/ COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS. The submission of expressions of interest is not a bidding requirement and will not qualify or disqualify potential bidders from participating in the Swiss Challenge.

More information regarding this invitation and call for registration may be requested from:

Sanjay Grewal
Advisory Services
International Finance Corporation
11/F Ayala Tower One
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Phone: (852) 2509-8139 Hong Kong
(632) 848-7333 Manila

ARMANDO H. PAREDES
General Manager
Metropolitan Cebu Water District
Magallanes-Lapulapu Streets
Cebu City, Philippines
Phone (032) 256-0411
Email gmo@mcwd.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NOEL R. DALENA
BOT-BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 3, 10 & 17, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-75-78; (054) 473-89-36
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-89-36; (054) 473-7578, (054) 811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through **General Appropriations Act of 2006** intends to apply specified sums for the following projects.

a. **Project: Procurement of Medical Gases – (IAEB No. 2006-08)**

Approved Budget for the Contract	SEVEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED NINETY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWO & 95 100 Philippine Pesos
Sale of Bid Documents	July 3, 2006 to August 3, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	August 3, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Bid Opening	August 15, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents	Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00)

b. **Project: Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals – (IAEB No. 2006-09)**

Approved Budget for the Contract	THIRTY FIVE MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY & 00 100 Philippine Pesos
Sale of Bid Documents	July 3, 2006 to August 4, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	August 4, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Bid Opening	August 16, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents	Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 3,500.00)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of Goods required as stated in the Special Conditions of the Contract for each project.

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon; 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as specified above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:

1.	**Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit**	(1% of ABC)
2.	**Bank Guarantee**	(1.5% of ABC)
3.	**GSIS Surety Bond**	(2.5% of ABC)

Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-7578, (054) 473-8036
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-8036, (054) 811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person
ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 4 & 10, 2006)

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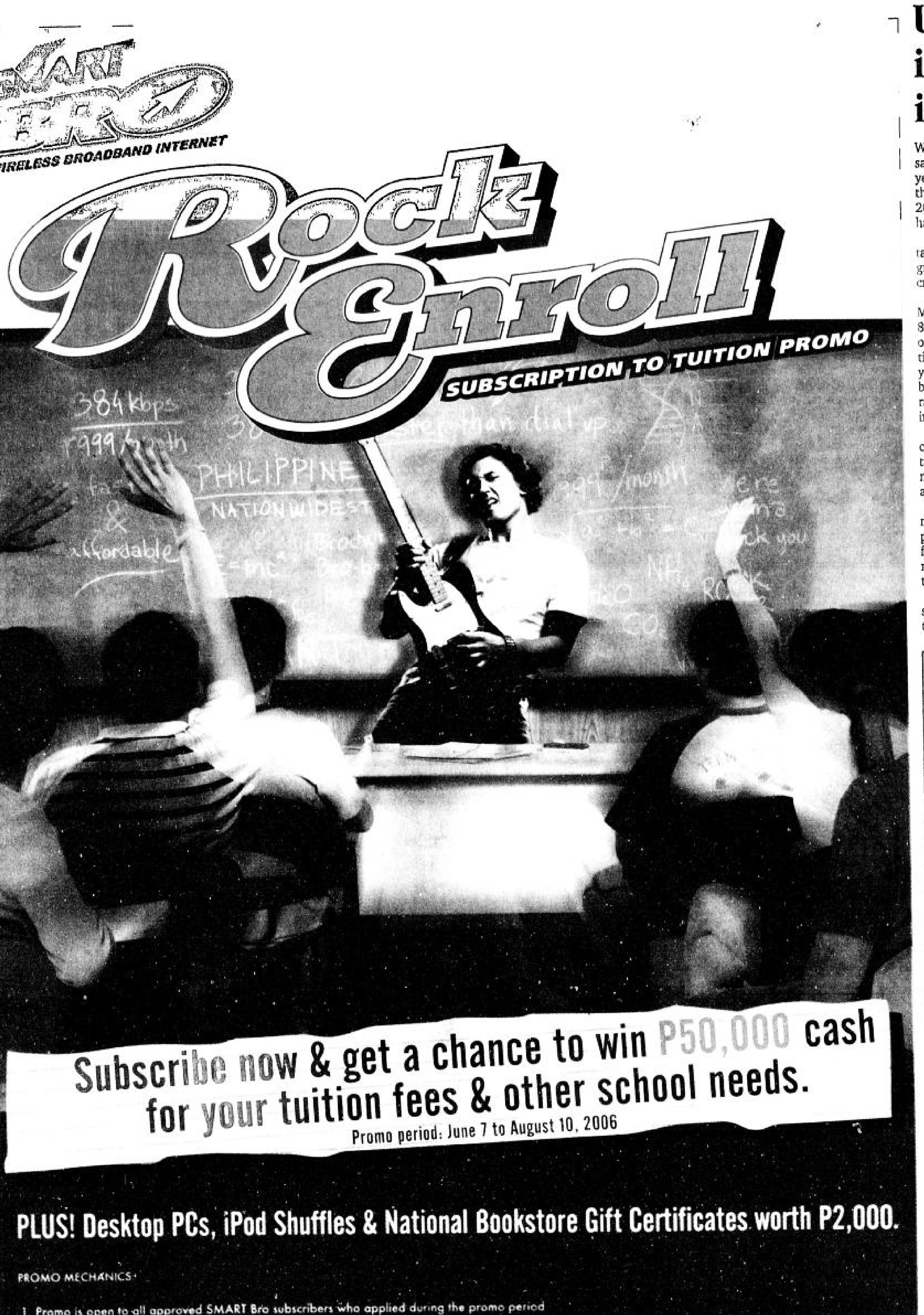

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US aid to RP in 2006 highest in 15 years

WASHINGTON, D.C.—PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR to the United States Albert del Rosario yesterday reported that the US assistance to the Philippines of $228 million in fiscal year 2006 was the highest ever that the country had obtained in 15 years.

According to the envoy, US bilateral assistance to the Philippines from 2001 to 2006, in grants, amounted to about $1.2 billion, increasing annually at an average of 39 percent.

Del Rosario, whose tour of duty as Chief of Mission in Washington, D.C. will end on July 8, said, "In coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of National Defense, the embassy has worked every year with the executive and legislative branches of the American government to raise US assistance to the Philippines from the initial levels proposed by the White House."

He added, "We believe that these annual campaigns have helped raise US grant assistance to the Philippines from a low of $69.3 million in 2001 to $228.7 million in 2006, or an increase of 230 percent."

"The augmentation of US assistance was made possible either through additional appropriations by the US Congress or through funds drawn by some US executive departments from their global facilities in response to Philippine requests," he explained.

Del Rosario attributed the increases in assistance to cordial relationships between the two countries.

BSP encourages use of coins

By Doris C. Dumlao

DO YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU TRY TO purchase an item with over P50 worth of coins the store has the right to refuse payment?

The P50-limit applies to a combination of coins offered for payment in denominations of 25 centavos, P1, P5 and P10. For people using lower denominations—say, 1, 5 or 10 centavos—the limit is only P20.

Even banks have the right to reject the coin hoard, based on the country's legal tender or the medium of exchange allowed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to pay for goods or services or even to settle a debt which a creditor, seller or service provider must legally accept.

But since these limits hampered the effective re-circulation of coins in the country, the BSP decided to redefine legal tender and to become more tolerant of the use of coins, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters on Friday.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board had approved a new legal tender blueprint hoping to "encourage the public to use coins in day-to-day transactions," he said.

The BSP would soon issue a circular allowing the public to make payments of up to P1,000 using coins denominated in P1, P5 and P10 or a combination of these. For 25-centavo coins or less, any transaction up to P100 shall be considered legal tender.

Guinigundo said the BSP had good reason in allowing the higher threshold.

"The BSP is now issuing coins in higher denominations. Before, we didn't have P5 and P10. Besides, the size and weight of coins have diminished over time so it's no longer burdensome to carry coins," he said.

Guinigundo also noted that today's P50 bought less than what the same amount could fetch years ago.

The redefinition is in line with the new month-long program launched by Malacañang last week called "Tulong Barya Para sa Eskuwela." The program hopes to raise funds for public elementary schools by enticing people to donate the lowly, often set aside and misplaced coins in especially designed "money banks."

It also hopes to raise awareness among the public and to encourage them to accept and use coins regularly to keep them circulating.

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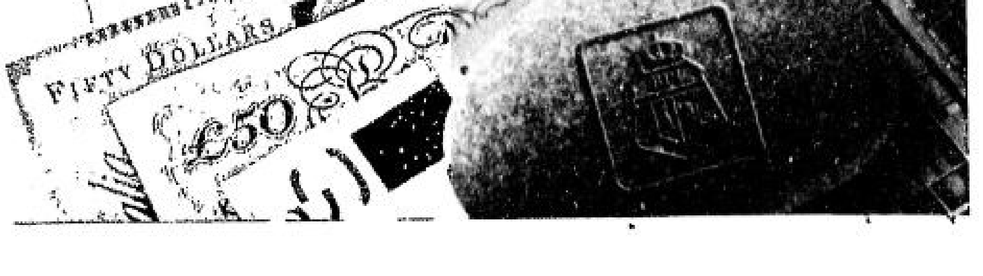

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Safe, sound and not sorry

NGO hopes to turn every Filipino into a lifesaver

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOWADAYS with P100?

The amount, equivalent to a hundred text messages, can equip you with life-saving skills, courtesy of a nongovernment organization which wants to arm as many people as it can with the basic know-how to save lives.

At most, P100 is all that one has to pay to take the basic survival course being offered by the Emergency Resource Center (ERC) Inc., which was created out of a need to teach Filipinos to be prepared for any calamity.

"What is P100 nowadays? The daily allowance of students for their cell phone load? Still, everybody is prone to accidents. And with the course, we can empower you in two hours. We can prepare you for natural emergencies, crime and terrorism, fire incidents, self-aid and first aid," said Louie Domingo, ERC vice president and operations director.

CRISIS expert Louie Domingo

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

Country of lifesavers

The nongovernmental organization (NGO) was established in 2000 by a group of individuals with a common dream of making a lifesaver out of every Filipino. For who else should be experts in surviving natural and man-made calamities but a country whose citizens endure at least 20 typhoons every year and is home to as many active volcanoes?

The ERC "supports the philosophy that the illiterate, poor and the underdeveloped need not be deprived of appropriate, sustainable, self-reliant, life-saving resources, knowledge and technology."

Specialized training

Toward this end, it offers a wide range of lessons on multi-hazard emergencies, from courses as basic as what to do during earthquakes and fire incidents, to more specialized training such as cabin crew defense for flight attendants and tactical medicine for soldiers engaged in combat.

But for the Filipino everyman, the ERC has just the right lesson—Safety Awareness for Everyone! or SAFE!—an information-packed course which it describes as an "awareness level program that promotes emergency preparedness through experiential education."

"The point is, what's your excuse now for not learning all of these? This is a perpetual need. Everybody needs to know about safety and security. There are times they (clients) can only afford P50. Then we adjust because we are an NGO and we're not so much in it for the money. As long as you are interested, we will teach you," Domingo said.

Part of the fees the NGO collects for its courses is used to enhance its knowledge and technological resources and for compensating its 30 volunteers.

"We have to understand that an NGO is somehow ran like a business which also has expenses. We want to pay experts, do proper research and see the latest cutting-edge technology which we could then share through our lessons," added Domingo.

Four stations

In SAFE!, participants spend two hours going through four stations where they would encounter life-threatening scenarios.

Station 1: Smoke Simulator

This station simulates a fire in-

SAFE/ A24

A TWO-HOUR course conducted by Domingo and other volunteers teaches people what to do during an earthquake, fire or even a terrorist attack.

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METROBRIEFS

US donates P7.5-M equipment to NBI

THE UNITED States Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (US-ATAP) has donated $150,000 or P7.5 million worth of equipment to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to help the agency in its intensified campaign against cyber crimes. "The US-ATAP officials will present the equipment to the bureau today (Monday)," NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD) chief Elfren Meneses Jr. said in a phone interview. Meneses added that officials of the NBI AFCCD and US-ATAP would hold a one-week consultation meeting starting today at the NBI Computer Forensic Laboratory. "The consultation meeting is aimed at enhancing the existing cyber investigative and forensic capabilities of the NBI in keeping up with the US government's commitment to regularly upgrade the forensic equipment the US-ATAP had earlier donated to the bureau," Meneses said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Suspect in killing yields to police

A 21-YEAR-OLD woman who allegedly killed her partner during an argument has turned herself in to the Quezon City police. Apple Grace Jacinto, 21, the primary suspect in the killing of Reynaldo Evangelista, a laborer, surrendered to Batasan Hills police on Friday, a day after she stabbed him dead, according to the investigator. Upon questioning, Jacinto confessed to killing Evangelista on July 6 inside their house at 13 Artillery Road, Barangay Holy Spirit, said case investigator PO3 Allan Rodulfo. Jacinto said that she and Evangelista had been having almost nightly arguments over the latter's fits of jealousy. On Thursday, in a sudden burst of rage, she got hold of a knife and stabbed him in the chest before fleeing. On Saturday, Jacinto was brought to the custody of the Quezon City Police District criminal investigation division, where she is now detained. Rodulfo said homicide charges would be filed against Jacinto.

DJ Yap

New PNU president issues memo

DESPITE the continuing opposition to his appointment, lawyer Lutgardo Barbo has buckled down to work after the Board of Regents affirmed its decision naming him the new president of the Philippine Normal University. On Friday, Barbo appointed officers in charge for various positions that became vacant after 25 PNU officials resigned in protest over his designation as PNU president. In a memorandum dated July 7, Barbo named 15 new OICs who will serve "until such time that the new vice president, deans, directors, heads and other designated officials shall have been selected after a search process." The newly designated officials were led by Dr. Jesus Ochave, who replaced Dr. Estefania de Guzman as vice president for academic affairs.

Tina G. Santos

Cabaluna; 89

MANUEL L. Cabaluna, an Ulirang Ama awardee and the father of People's Insider managing editor Franklin C. Cabaluna, died on July 8 of a lingering illness. He was 89 years old. His body lies at the family residence in Barangay San Antonio, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur. Interment will be announced later. He is survived by wife Inocencia, children Franklin, Perla, Ermelinda, Aida, Lilia, Loremilia, Manuel Jr., and Inocencio, in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE GROUND ON WHICH THE RIZAL Monument in Luneta stands is not the exact spot where the national hero was killed?

Dr. Jose Rizal was killed by a firing squad on Dec. 30, 1896 about 100 meters away from where the monument was built. The site where he fell has a bronze marker enclosed by a steel fence.

PDI Research

Suspect in Aussie's slay falls

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE SUSPECT IN THE KILLING of an Australian citizen during a robbery incident in Quiapo, Manila last week was arrested by operatives of the Manila Police District (MPD) yesterday.

Rommel Napoles, 30, of 121 Maginhawa St., F.B. Harrison in Pasay City, now faces robbery with homicide charges at the Manila City Prosecutor's Office, according to Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling of the MPD Homicide Section.

Napoles was charged with killing Martin Dickinson who was identified by the Australian Embassy only yesterday, police said.

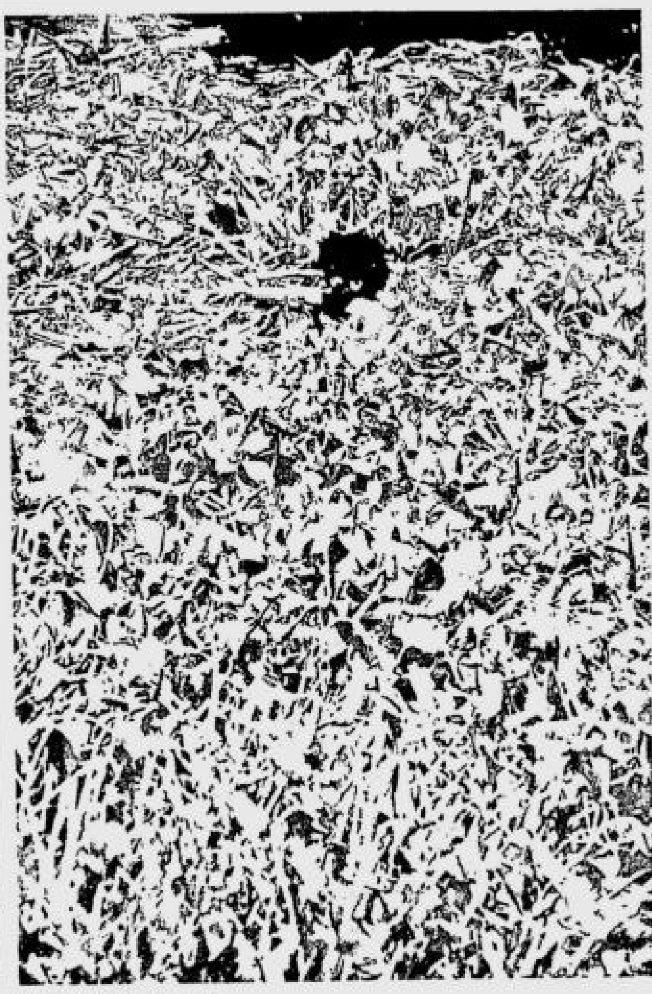
According to Yanquiling, they arrested Napoles in Pasay City after a witness came forward and told the police of the suspect's whereabouts.

Dickinson was stabbed to death at around 4:30 a.m. last Wednesday while riding a passenger jeepney plying the Baclaran-Blumentritt route.

According to driver Ronnie Lee, Napoles had boarded his jeep at the corner of Taft Avenue and P. Ocampo Street in Malate, Manila. The victim, on the other hand, had gotten on the jeep at Pedro Gil.

When the suspect announced the robbery near Quezon Bridge in Quiapo, a slight commotion occurred inside the vehicle as passengers panicked, Lee added.

Witnesses said Napoles stabbed the victim four times before he escaped.



MAN AT WORK
A man makes his way through a huge patch of water lilies in Pasig River, looking for recyclable materials which he can sell. RYAN LIM

Mishap snarls traffic

By DJ Yap

TRAFFIC WAS SNARLED FOR hours along the Tandang Sora flyover in Quezon City on Saturday night after a van rammed into the steel railings, tipped over and then flopped onto its side.

Investigators are preparing charges against businessman Eduardo Manginsay, 62, the driver of the Nissan Terrano with plate number RAC 731.

Traffic investigators observed that Manginsay was drunk, a violation of Section 53 of the Land Transportation and Traffic Code.

Manginsay was cruising on Commonwealth Avenue, on his way to Philcoa at past 7 p.m. Saturday, when he lost control of the wheel upon reaching the flyover, investigators said.

The SUV slammed into the railings and tipped over, landing on its left side, according to a report by Senior Insp. Antonio Tanguilan, chief of Quezon City Traffic Sector 5.

The vehicle occupied the southbound lane of the flyover, blocking the path of other cars, thus resulting in heavy traffic, the report said.

Airport cop investigated for violating Naia policy

By Nikko Dizon

AN AIRPORT COP IS UNDER INvestigation for allowing a three-year-old girl into a restricted area at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) without the necessary access pass as alleged by a representative of the Transportation Security Authority (TSA) of the US Homeland Security.

But in his affidavit dated July 5, Corporal Arman Gulapa of the Airport Police Department (APD) maintained that he did not violate the Naia's access control rules when he allowed Ruperto Defino Jr., an airline employee, to bring his daughter to his office located at the Naia ramp area.

Defino was there to get his salary but his daughter refused to let him out of her sight. "There was nobody who was going to babysit at that time if the (child) did not go with (her) father. I could not attend to the child," Gulapa said in his two-page affidavit.

Safe, sound and not sorry

From page A23

cident with participants placed in a room filled with nontoxic smoke, according to an ERC course brief.

"Participants learn how smoke (settles) at various heights and how to best take advantage of this phenomena. In addition, participants are exposed to the difficulties of navigating through the simulator due to limited vision, difficulty of breathing and general disorientation," the ERC said.

Station 2: Multiple Casualty Simulator

Here, participants deal with persons suffering from injuries — a simulation of a situation that may arise following the collapse of a building or a bomb attack. The station comes complete with "simulated casualties" with mock but realistic injuries meant to "evoke varied responses from participants."

Station 3: Natural and man-made emergencies

In this station, students' skills at improvising are tested as they are asked to fashion tools for survival out of things at hand like their clothing, combs, belts and even their identification cards.

Station 4: Crime and Terrorism Station

Participants are taught survival skills in the urban setting, including self-defense in case of attacks, stampedes or tumultuous crowd situations like the dispersal of rallies or mass transit emergencies.

The best thing about the program, said Domingo, is that the ERC will bring the program to where you are.

"We go to you, occupy a room, and teach. We just try to make it super-reachable for our fellow Filipinos," he added.

One of a kind

Domingo said he's proud to belong to an NGO which is the only one of its kind in the country. "Our mission is to reach 45,000 barangays in the country and provide appropriate technology to anybody, everybody, which they can use in cases to prevent turning an incident into an emergency," he pointed out.

To reach its goal, the ERC has traveled to various provinces to bring lessons on safety and security to small towns. The organization carries out this mission through its NEST (Neighborhood Emergency Services Team) program, a course that taps natives in an area by turning them into emergency first responders after 40 hours of training in emergency communications and preparedness, first aid, fire protection, earthquake and flood safety, search and rescue, disaster relief and rehabilitation and health monitoring, among others.

Empowerment

"It's all about empowering communities. We teach 25 to 35 people to handle their own emergencies—like trees swaying over power lines which could be solved by asking government to cut it. It serves the whole barangay because anybody who needs help in any emergency, the team we had taught could address that," said Domingo.

The NEST program has been taught for free in towns in Palawan, Davao and barangays in Los Baños, Laguna.

For the organization, there is no greater reward than being able to reach out and share lifesaving knowledge with those willing to learn. Yes, even greater than that P100 bill.

"It feels so good for you to have helped a group or a person get prepared for anything and they come back to you and tell you that what you had taught them helped them save lives. All they had to do was give us the time to share it with them," Domingo said.

DOMINGO shows some of the things that people should store in their house "just in case."

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100,000 leftists cry 'fraud' after Mexico poll

MEXICO CITY—MORE THAN 100,000 protesters filled a vast Mexico City square on Saturday to back a fiery left-winger in his fight to overturn a tight presidential election he says was rigged against him.

To cheers, whistles and shouts of "Fraud, fraud," Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told the crowd the official razor-thin election victory of the conservative ruling party's Felipe Calderon last Sunday was bogus.

He said he was the legitimate winner and called for more protest marches to pile on the pressure as his legal team challenges the results before Mexico's highest election court.

"We are going to defend democracy," Lopez Obrador shouted.

"We are going to ask that they recount all the votes, vote by vote, polling station by polling station. All the ballot boxes must be opened because there is solid evidence that they took out votes to favor the candidate of the right."

The leftist campaigned on a promise to pull millions of people out of poverty with ambitious welfare programs and infrastructure projects, but his policies and crowd-pleasing rhetoric alarm business leaders and investors.

About 130,000 people came out in support of the popular former mayor of Mexico City, filling Zocalo square with the yellow flags of his party and shouting "Obrador, Obrador."

Some held posters reading "No to the damn fraud," accused the ruling party of vote-rigging and some warned of unrest. "If there's no solution, there'll be a revolution," they chanted.

"It's an outrage what they did. It was a total robbery," said retired psychologist Rene Vega in Zocalo, one of the world's largest squares that is dominated by a giant Mexican flag.

Lopez Obrador will challenge the result in the electoral court, but Calderon is already looking presidential after a recount of vote tally sheets showed he won by less than 1 percentage point.

US President George W. Bush and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero annoyed Lopez Obrador when they called his rival on Friday to congratulate him on his win.

Lopez Obrador said the party of Calderon and President Vicente Fox had "learned fast" the dirty tricks used by the Institutional Revolutionary Party that ruled for 71 years until Fox toppled it in 2000 in Mexico's cleanest election to date. *Reuters*

THOUSANDS rally for presidential candidate Andres Obrador at the Zocalo plaza in Mexico City, July 8. AP

3 Palestinian family members killed in Israel air strike

THE BODY of 6-year-old Palestinian girl Rawan Hajjaj, who arrived dead at the Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City, is seen July 8. AFP

GAZA CITY—THREE PALESTINIAN family members, including a 6-year-old girl, were killed Saturday in an air strike near Gaza City as Israel rejected a call by Hamas premier Ismail Haniya for a mutual ceasefire.

The girl, her elder brother and her mother were killed in the air raid, which according to an army spokesperson targeted a group of militants east of Gaza City.

Despite initial denials, the Israeli army later confirmed carrying out an air strike in the neighborhood of Sejayun.

"We are currently examining the exact details of the strike," an army source told AFP.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan meanwhile demanded immediate access for UN workers and humanitarian relief supplies to the Gaza Strip, saying he was "extremely concerned about the dangerous situation in the occupied Palestinian Territory."

Four more Palestinians were killed earlier as Israeli forces shifted the focus of their Gaza campaign to end militant rocket fire and free a captured soldier to the seaside strip's eastern frontier.

As Israel pushed on into Gaza, officials brushed aside Haniya's call for a "return to a situation of calm on the basis of a halt to all military operations by both sides."

"We do not hold negotiations with terrorists. They must first return the kidnapped soldier unharmed and cease their fire," an official in Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office told AFP.

"We will decide on our next moves according to the steps taken by the Palestinian government," he said, asking not to be named.

Haniya stressed that his Hamas government was determined to solve the problem through diplomatic channels in a "peaceful" manner.

"It is necessary that Israel halt its military operation in the Gaza Strip and withdraw its forces," said a statement from Haniya.

"More efforts are required from all parties to resolve the current crisis in order to bring an end to the Israeli aggression and resolve the question of the Israeli soldier through serious negotiations," it added.

A Hamas spokesperson slammed Israel for brushing aside the Hamas ceasefire offer.

"The Israeli rejection is wrong," said Ghazi Hamad. "This initiative must be seized on in order to find a suitable solution."

Earlier, dozens of Israeli tanks backed by helicopter gunships and drones passed through the Karni and Nahal Oz crossings, advancing 1 km to the outskirts of Gaza City where clashes broke out. *AFP*

Seoul bucks sanctions on North Korea

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA DOES not think proposed UN sanctions against North Korea would curb its communist neighbor's missile program or make the region any safer, a senior presidential aide said on Sunday.

After Pyongyang defied world opinion and test-fired seven missiles last week, Japan formally introduced a UN resolution that would impose sanctions on the reclusive Stalinist state, but veto-wielding members China and Russia are both strongly opposed.

"For the time being, we do not have a clear grounds or reasoning that these sanctions will work for preventing any missile proliferation, or any factors that destabilize the regional stability," Song Min-soon, national security adviser to the president, told Reuters.

Japan's revised draft, co-sponsored by the United States, Britain and France, says that no nation can procure missiles or missile-related "items, materials goods and technology" from North Korea, or transfer financial resources to the isolated Communist country's dangerous weapons programs.

Seoul could consider sanctions if it thought they would be effective but is pushing diplomacy to ease tensions, Song said after talks with Christopher Hill, the visiting top US envoy for North Korea. *Reuters*

Taiwan president's wife linked to corruption scandal

TAIPEI—TAIWANESE PRESIDENT Chen Shui-bian's wife is expected to be questioned by investigators before the end of this month in connection with a high-profile corruption scandal that has embroiled his family, media reports said Sunday.

The scandal flared anew last week when Huang Fang-yen, a close friend of the president's family, said for the first time that he had received one million Taiwan dollars (US$30,770) worth of Sogo department store vouchers, the China Times said.

Huang told investigators he had used 200,000 dollars worth of the vouchers.

But he did not say if the remainder had been given to President Chen's wife Wu Shu-chen.

The wheelchair-bound Wu is being investigated for allegedly receiving, and then selling, five million dollars (US$156,000) worth of Sogo vouchers in exchange for lobbying favors.

"The investigators may question Wu and Huang simultaneously to find out if Wu had accepted vouchers from Huang," the daily quoted an unnamed investigator as saying, adding that questioning may take place at the presidential residence this month.

"Considering Wu's poor health, the interrogation would be completed in three to four hours," the investigator said.

Chen has denied his wife has done anything wrong and pledged to quit office if she is found guilty of any offense.

Chen's troubles began in May when his son-in-law Chao Chien-ming was detained on suspicion of insider trading and taking bribes from business people. Chao is in custody pending investigation.

The president has apologized for the turmoil caused by his son-in-law but refused to step down despite two mass protests launched by the two major opposition parties.

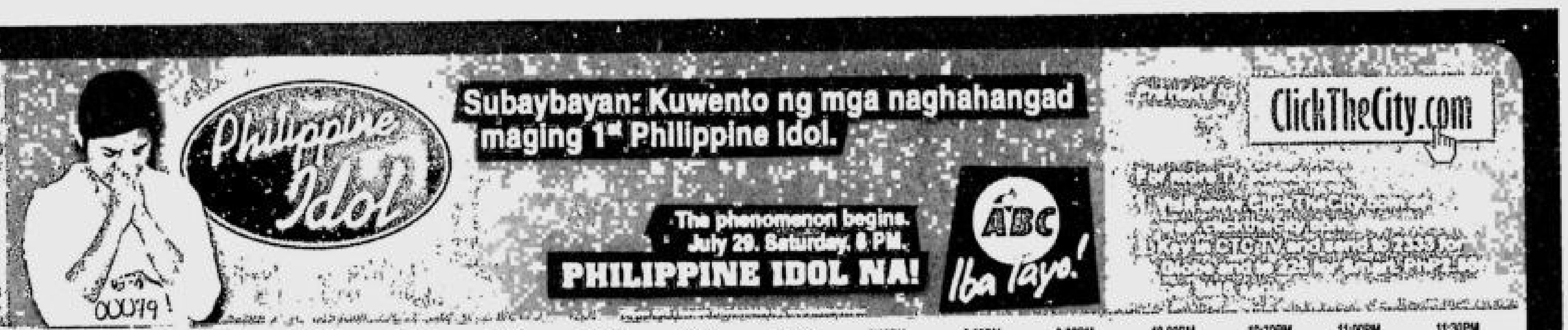
Chen survived an unprecedented motion in the opposition-controlled parliament in June aimed at ending his presidential term two years early.

Separately, Chen Che-nan, former deputy secretary general to the president, was indicted Friday for taking bribes and insider trading. Prosecutors are seeking a 12-year jail term. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Monday, July 10, 2006



Subaybayan: Kuwento ng mga naghahangad maging 1st Philippine Idol.
The phenomenon begins. July 29. Saturday, 8 PM.
PHILIPPINE IDOL NA!
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	V League				Sentro	How Clean Is Your House	ABC Action Movies				Big News	Totoo TV			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	OK Fine Whatever			Insider
AXN						Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	Amazon		Andromeda (Season V)		The Ultimate Fighter		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Lost (Season II)		House	
Cartoon Network	Pixie And Dixie	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Codename: Kids Next Door [illegible] Showdowns	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dex	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Teen Titans	Justice League	The Batman	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock
Cinema One		Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?				Nasaan Ang Puso?				Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay				Paano Kung Wala Ka Na				Bikini Watch	
Cinemax		Mr. Deeds Goes To Town			Taking Lives (4:45 PM)				Another You (6:25 PM)			Feeling Minnesota			Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story				Freddy vs. Jason
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Revealed	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		What Should You Do?		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Mastermind	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Crossing Jordan		Bones		Cold Case	
Discovery Channel				Monster Garage		Top Tens		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Wild Discovery		We Built This City		Zero Hour		I Shouldn't Be Alive		On The Run	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	An Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Tour De France 2006			U.S. Senior Open Golf C'ship Final rd					Germany Tonight	Tour De France 2006	Sportscenter Germany	LPGA Golf Franklin American Mortgage C'ship				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Friends 10	Beach Girls		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Film Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		America's Next Top Model 4		ET Weekend	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	The Biggest Loser		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle Of Common Sense II	Threshold Of Hope		Sunday Night [illegible] Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Good Or Evil: Who Decides?	The Gospel Of John	Freedom & Authority	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Aagawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes		Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Child Of Our Time (3:15 PM)						McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Doc Martin		Judging Amy					Judging Amy (11:45PM)
HBO			The Fog Of War (3:45 PM)				The Sister In Law (5:45 PM)				Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!			The Manchurian Candidate				Harlem Nights (11:15PM)	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gamburagar	Gosaurer	Raijin-Oh	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mamo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gosaurer
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Kwaida Kontra Kamen		Japan Video Topics Army		Global Family Series		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics Army	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		The Late Show David Letterman		Bottomline		Alarbum		X-Men Evolution	Bust The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Family Guy	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box			
Lifestyle Network	Got Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Embellish This	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	E! Extra High Price Of Fame		NY Fashion Week	Martha		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article	Good Finds	Style Star
MTV Philippines		Wildboyz			MTV Hits (with Sway)					Get Spotted		TRL		Wildboyz					
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mobile MYX Top Picks		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	5 Weddings And A Couple Of Funerals	National Geographic Specials		Naked Science		The Living Edens		Top 5 - Is It Real?		[illegible]		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Naked Science: Angry Skies		The Living Edens: [illegible]	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports [illegible]	[illegible]	Teledyaryo W/ [illegible] Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition		Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	[illegible]	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron [illegible]	Nick Kicks! All Grown Up		The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo!	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Anak Pagsubok Lang				[illegible] Ang Puso				Cross My Heart				Balweg				Buko Pandan
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Dame	Project 11	H2O [illegible]		News On Q	[illegible] Ng Kabuhayan		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				[illegible] Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Scare Tactics	Movie Magic					Newswatch Now	Go Negosyo		[illegible]
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports			GWS 24-2006	Sunday Slugfest: S. Mosley vs. F. Vargas						Sagupaan		Boxing: Manny Pacquiao vs. Erik Morales				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	2006 Thomas Cup Champions	
Sports Plus						Ultimate Fighting Championship				Party Poker.com World Open 2006				FIFA World Cup [illegible]					
Star Movies	In Enemy Hands (2:40 PM)				Force Of Impact (4:20 PM)			[illegible] Of April		First Daughter (7:15 PM)				Enemy Of The State				[illegible] (11:15PM)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids	Still Standing	Yes Dear	[illegible]	Dance Fever		Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23	Bewitched	YuGi-Oh 3 & 4				Batman Beyond	Dragon Booster	6Teen	Blog	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion 2		Lost (8:20 PM)	Alas (9:10 PM)		News Central	America's Next Top Model		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

140 dead in Russian Airbus jet crash

Сегодня
ИРКУТСК
НТВ

PROBERS inspect the Airbus A-310 of the Russian Sibir airline that crashed in Irkutsk airport. AFP

IRKUTSK, RUSSIA—AT LEAST 140 PEOPLE DIED when a Russian Airbus plane veered off a runway and caught fire while landing Sunday in the Siberian provincial center of Irkutsk, officials said.

"Forty-nine people are in hospital. Eleven people left the plane and walked away—we are appealing for them to come back," an official at a crisis center set up in Irkutsk told AFP.

Between 200 and 202 people were on board the Sibir airline plane bound from Moscow, including a group of children on their way to a holiday, according to different officials.

A spokesperson for the Irkutsk section of the emergency situations ministry said that 120 bodies had been recovered. The recovery of bodies was continuing, he told AFP.

The incident occurred when the Airbus A310 careered off the tarmac during landing and crashed into a concrete wall close to airport buildings, bursting into a huge wall of flame, the emergency situations ministry said.

It was the second recent crash of an Airbus plane in Russia, after an Armenian Airbus A320 crashed into the Black Sea near Sochi in May killing all 113 on board.

Sunday's incident occurred at 8 a.m. (2300 GMT Saturday) as the flight from Moscow's Domodedovo airport was landing in the city in central Siberia, five time zones east of Moscow.

Russia's Vesti 24-hour news channel broadcast images recorded on a mobile phone that showed flames and thick black smoke billowing from the fuselage of the plane.

Survivors were evacuated from the rear of the plane, while the fire raged for three hours before it was extinguished, officials said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "expresses his deep condolences to relatives and friends of those who died in the plane crash in Irkutsk," the Kremlin press service said.

The Russian president ordered a government investigation commission to be set up, Transport Minister Igor Levitin was quoted by Interfax as saying as he left Moscow to join the investigation.

No definite reason for the crash has yet been put forward, but officials said that the black box flight recorders have been found and sent to Moscow for examination.

"There are many versions," the spokesperson for the emergency situations ministry said.

"The landing gear may have caught fire while landing, igniting the rest of the plane. Or there was a short circuit while the plane was still in the air, which disabled the brakes," the spokesperson told AFP.

Prosecutors announced they had opened a criminal inquiry into the crash. *AFP*

Nobel Peace winner Ramos-Horta is new PM of E. Timor

DENPASAR, INDONESIA—IN A move designed to bring stability to East Timor after months of unrest, the Nobel peace laureate Jose Ramos-Horta was named prime minister on Saturday.

President Xanana Gusmao selected Ramos-Horta to head a new government after Mari Alkatiri was forced to resign as prime minister two weeks ago amid allegations that he had helped to organize and arm a civilian militia.

Gusmao, speaking in the capital, Dili, on Saturday evening, said he hoped Ramos-Horta, a close friend of his who enjoys popular support at home and is respected abroad, would "bring about the process of healing."

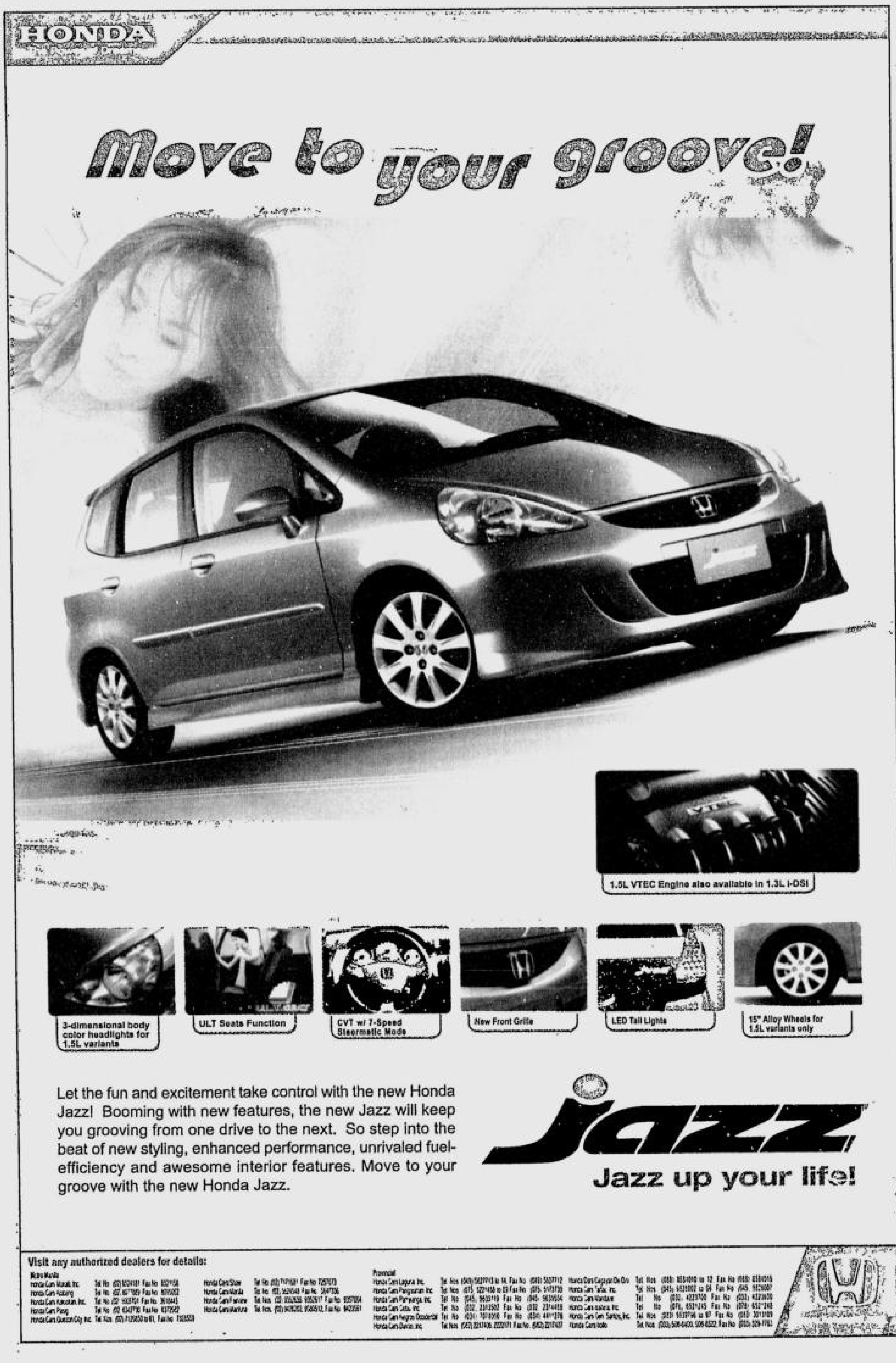
The selection was praised by the Australian government, which sent more than 1,000 soldiers to East Timor in late May to lead an international peacekeeping force in putting down an insurrection among members of the army and the police.

"We welcome the fact that the political leaders of East Timor are starting to sort their problems out," the Australian foreign minister, Alexander Downer, said Saturday.

In Dili, residents said they were relieved. "I guarantee Horta is the best we have," Oldegar Massinga, who works for a UN agency, said in a telephone interview. "Now he has to send the refugees back home and put a police post in every place in Dili."

The immediate challenge for Ramos-Horta, who was foreign minister in the previous government, will be to convince the more than 100,000 people who fled Dili and outlying areas during violence last month to return home. The refugees are living in makeshift camps but have said they are reluctant to leave the camps, watched over by the Australians and other members of the 2,700-troop peacekeeping force, while armed groups still roam the capital. *NYT*

RAMOS-HORTA REUTERS



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New AIDS medicine is one pill once a day

THE FIRST COMPLETE TREATMENT for aids that is taken once a day as a single pill is expected to be available soon.

The pill, which combines three drugs made by two companies, would be a milestone in improving the simplicity of treatment for the disease, experts say. It should make it easier for people to take their medicine regularly, which is important for keeping the virus that causes the disease in check.

Only a decade ago, when cocktails of AIDS drugs were first used, patients often had to take two or three dozen pills a day, some with food, some without, some so frequently patients had to get up in the middle of the night. Since then, the regimens have been whittled down to as few as two pills a day, and now, one.

"Going down to one pill a day is amazing," said Keith Folger of Washington, who started on 36 pills a day about 11 years ago and is expecting to switch to the new pill when it becomes available.

Folger, who is just leaving a job as director of community mobilization for the National Association of People with AIDS, said the pill would be "remarkable, especially for people who are starting on medication for the first time and are sort of freaked out that they will have to take pills for the rest of their lives."

The new drug is a combination of drugs already on the market—Sustiva sold by Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Truvada, sold by Gilead Sciences. Truvada is a combination of two Gilead drugs, Viread and Emtriva.

The Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve the new drug as soon as this week.

The companies have not revealed the new drug's name or its price, though they have suggested it will cost roughly the same as Sustiva and Truvada bought separately, which is about $1,200 a month. *NYT*

WORLDBRIEFS

India test-fires nuke-capable missile

BHUBANESHWAR, India—India Sunday successfully carried out its first test of a nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of 4,000 km, defense officials said. he Agni-III missile was launched from Wheeler Island, 180 km northeast of Bhubaneshwar in the eastern state of Orissa, they said on condition of anonymity. In May, Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee said the Agni-III, India's longest-range ballistic missile, was ready but that the country was observing "self-imposed restraint" before testing. Opposition parties criticized the announcement, saying testing was being delayed because of pressure from the United States. New Delhi and Washington reached a landmark deal in March that will lift sanctions on India's access to civilian nuclear technology. The test launch comes just four days after North Korea sparked an international outcry by test-firing seven missiles. *AFP*

Astronauts take 7 1/2-hr spacewalk

HOUSTON—Two astronauts from the shuttle Discovery took a seven-and-a-half-hour walk outside on Saturday, doing a bit of on-orbit repair to a malfunctioning part of the International Space Station and testing whether the shuttle's robot arm and sensor boom can be used as a work platform. The two astronauts, Piers J. Sellers and Michael E. Fossum, began easing out of the space station's Quest airlock at 9:17 a.m. (US Eastern time) and returned at 4:48 p.m. Meanwhile, on the ground, mission managers continued to examine questionable spots on the shuttle's exterior to decide whether any of them constituted a threat to the craft and crew in the shuttle's fiery re-entry through the earth's atmosphere. Analysts have cleared all but two of what mission managers called "regions of interest," said Steve Poulos, the space shuttle orbiter projects manager, during an afternoon briefing. "Yesterday, things were a little fuzzy," he said, "and today, things are a lot more clear." *NYT*

Mediterranean's tuna depleted

SUCURAJ, Croatia—Two decades ago, the channels that separate the Adriatic Islands here were brimming with giant bluefin tuna, a species so plentiful that tourists used to climb ladders by the sea to watch the schools swim by. Today, these majestic predators are rarely if ever caught. The tuna population in the Mediterranean is nearing extinction, a new World Wildlife Fund report concludes, with catches down 80 percent over the past few years, even for high-tech trawlers that now comb remote corners of the sea in search of the hard-to-find fish. "This is past the alarm stage," said Simon Cripps, director of the global marine program at the World Wildlife Fund. "We are seeing a complete collapse of the tuna population. It could disappear and never come back." *NYT*

SPORTS
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Seigle bags second best player award

AFTER FALLING SHORT OF THE SEASON MVP honors, Danny Seigle settled for the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup best player of the conference award instead.

San Miguel Beer's take-charge guy showed the way in the statistics and got the nod of the media, compiling 2,532 points for his second BPC title since winning the plum during his rookie year in the 1999 Governors Cup.

Seigle, who wound up second-best in scoring behind Marc Caguioa's 25.3-point production, averaged 24.7 points, 9.2 rebounds and three assists in 23 games.

Seigle's MVP bid also hit a snag early when the Beermen finished eighth overall in the team rankings during last conference's Fiesta Cup.

"I had a very disappointing first conference," said Seigle, who was sidelined by a recurring ankle injury for a couple of games in the Fiesta Cup.

Seigle tore an Achilles tendon in a tune-up game against the Qatar national team for the Busan Asian Games in 2002. For a time, Seigle was on and off the Beermen lineup as he suffered ankle injuries as an offshoot to that Achilles tear.

"I've fully recovered. Now, it's just a matter of getting back my rhythm," said Seigle, the seventh player in league history to have won the award at least twice. *June Navarro*

Bulls bounce back

By June Navarro

GAME WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
6 p.m.—Awarding Ceremony
7:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull (Game 4 of Finals)

RED BULL FINALLY WAS A COMPLETE team last night.

The back-to-the-wall Bulls wore down the Purefoods Chunkee Giants on both ends of the court, finally breaking through in the best-of-seven series for the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup after an 89-79 Game 3 victory at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Unlike in Games 1 and 2, we were able to match their defensive intensity for most of the game," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao of Red Bull, which avoided falling into a 3-0 hole. "At least tonight, we were consistent throughout."

Celino Cruz and Lordy Tugade fired all of Red Bull's seven three-pointers, most of them done in a fashion that riled the Giants while putting up a tough and gritty defense far different from the first two games.

Enrico Villanueva, Junthy Valenzuela and Cyrus Baguio also had their sparkling moments, tearing down the internal defense of the Giants with an assortment of shots that helped the Bulls to pull away in the third period.

"They (Bulls) were more focused today and they have a mission," said Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio. "They did something different and it paid off."

More than anything else, the Bulls simply returned the favor by giving the top defensive team in the league a dose of its own medicine.

Red Bull forced the Giants to commit 23 turnovers while efficiently putting the cuffs on Most Valuable Player candidates Kerby Raymundo and James Yap down the stretch.

Yap missed all of his eight three-point attempts and Noy Castillo made it a total of 14 misses from beyond the arc.

"We just wanted to win a first game. This is only the start," said Guiao. "Purefoods still has the advantage but if we even up on Wednesday (Game 4), we could make the series more interesting."

The scores:

RED BULL 89—Tugade 22, Villanueva 12, Cruz 11, Valenzuela 11, Baguio 10, Bugia 8, Pennisi 7, Najorda 4, Fonacier 2, Robinson 2, Hrabak 0.

PUREFOODS 79—Yap J. 16, Pingris 15, Yap R. 11, Raymundo 10, Yee 8, Simon 7, Limpot 4, Castillo 4, Artadi 2, Camaso 2, Gamboa 0, Evangelista 0.

Quarters: 16-13, 34-29, 66-52, 89-79

Ozamiz eyes finals vs Tagaytay today

OZAMIZ CITY—DEFENDING CHAMPION OZAMIZ COTTA SEEKS THE FIRST finals berth tonight when it faces expansion team Batang Tagaytay in Game 2 of their best-of-three semifinal series in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here. Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers are favored in the 6 p.m. match following their 94-84 in Game 1. Leading MVP candidate Marlon Basco is again expected to carry the load for Ozamiz, together with Billy Bansil and Melfred Sampilo. Tagaytay pins its hopes on ex-Ozamiz players Nino Marquez and Arden Guiyab and veterans Jimboy Robillos and Rodel Mallari in their bid to stay alive in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings and Prime Channel.

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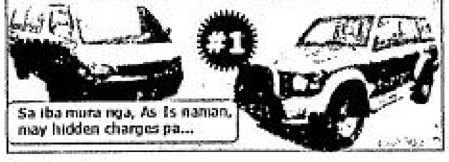
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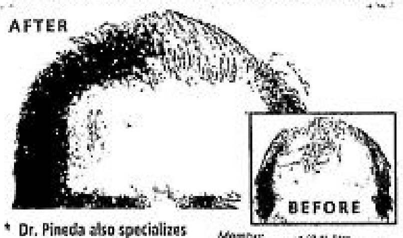

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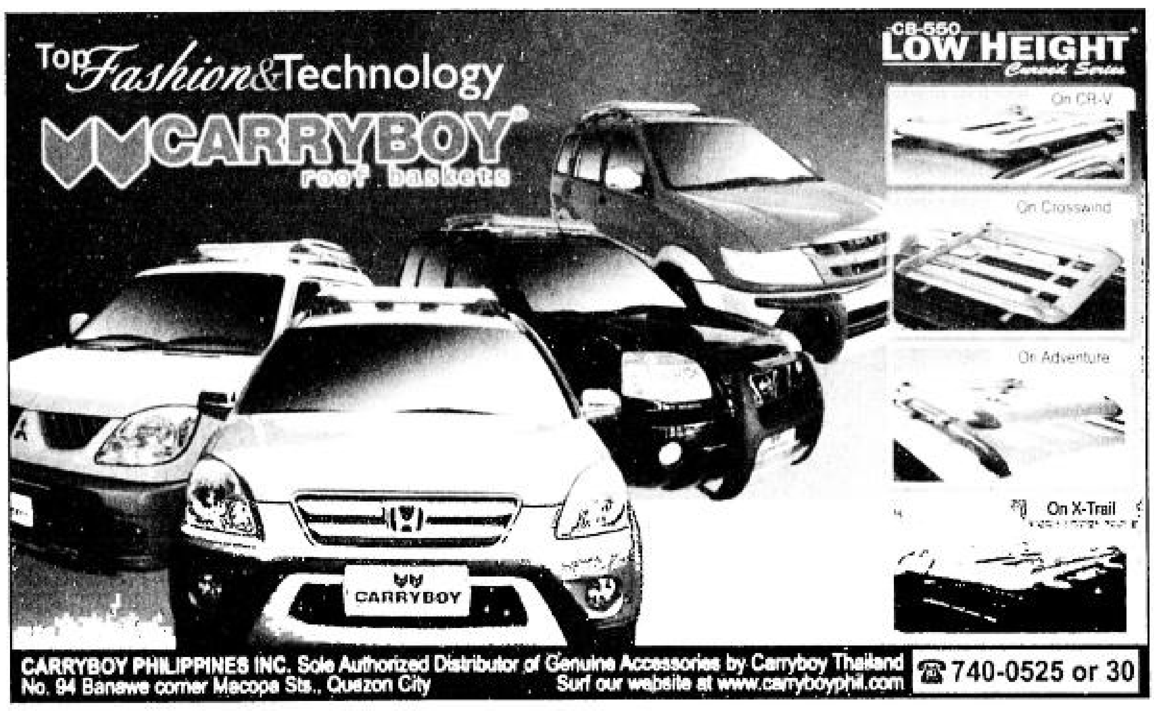
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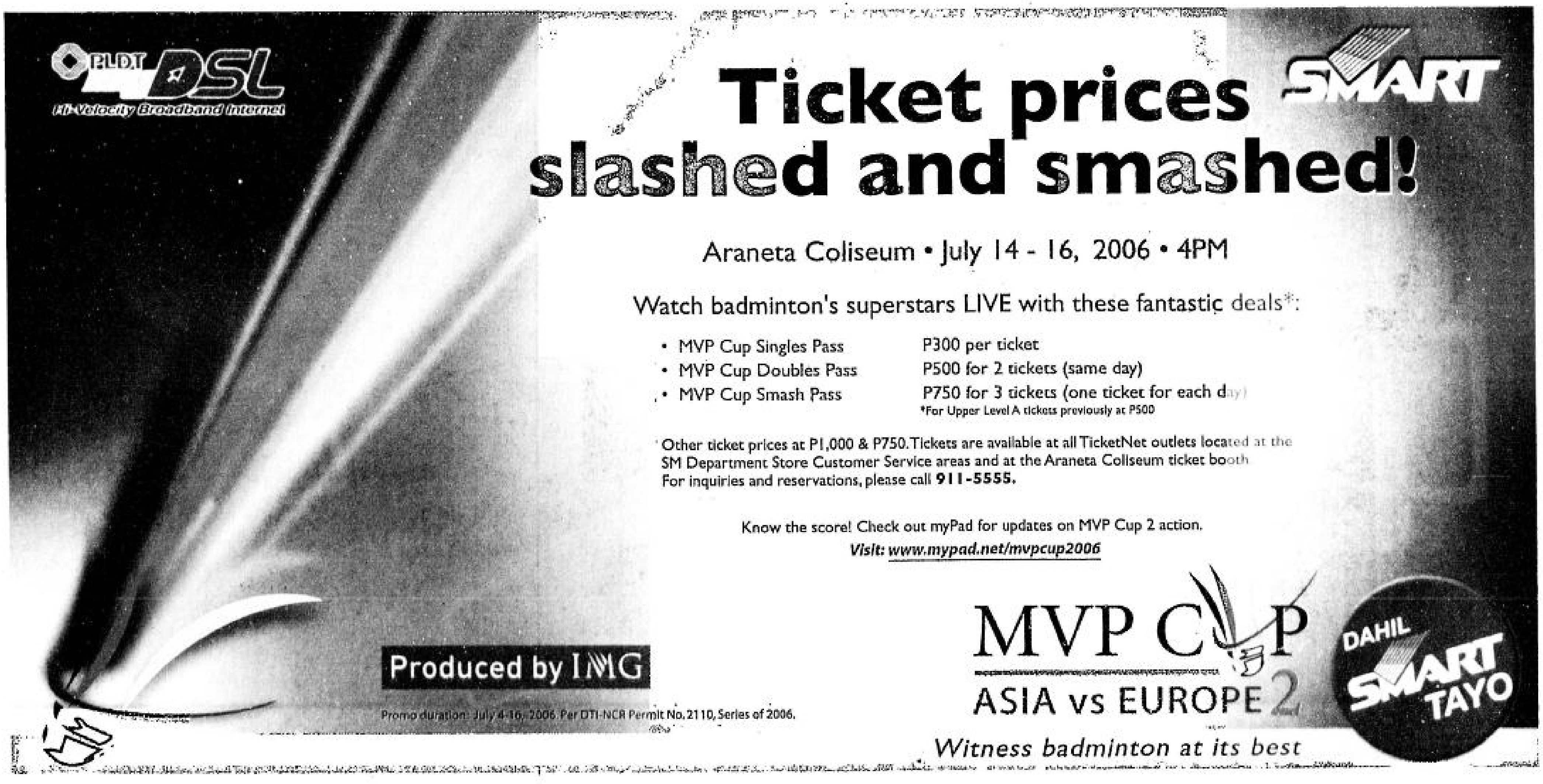
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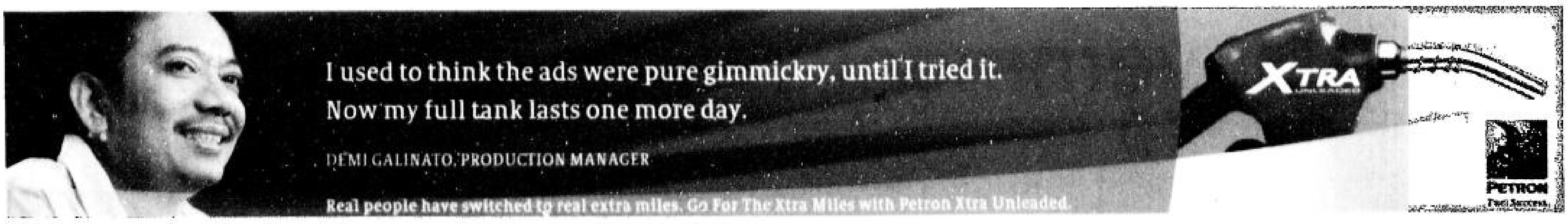
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XTRA UNLEADED
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Cramming is the name of the game

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS MANNY Pacquiao.

Sorry, but this has also resulted in a furious, if hysterical, contest out there in the national advertising scene.

The name of the game: Strike while the iron is hot.

This mad, mad rush to ride on the Pacquiao popularity has produced contrasting results, with some pitifully bordering on the hilarious and the absurd.

Hard to miss was the full-page McDonald's newspaper ad, piping hot like freshly baked chicken breast, featuring the bare-chested Pacman straight out of his sweaty, methodical mangling of Oscar Larios inside the ring.

The big hero has for a crown a golden McDonald's baseball hat, ablaze with the great American food chain logo.

***

But what really caught the eye was that bloody passion projected by the boxing hero's strange denture, covered at the upper front part with the discolored, purplish boxing mouthpiece.

Instead of a carnival atmosphere, the commercial projects a cannibal madness that, in simple sense, should never be used in selling meat food products.

The full-page ad was supposed to invite Pacquiao fans to run to the nearest McDonald's outlet.

Sorry, but it has instead led this reporter to dig into a mound of old VCDs for the classic Silence of the Lamb.

Yes, the Pacman McDonald's ad has awakened a desire to again watch, in delight, Sir Anthony Hopkins' portrayal of the blood-thirsty, maniacal inmate boldly called Hannibal Lecter, a feat that won for the great actor an Oscar award.

***

Who knows, the Pacman rush-rush ad may yet win for McDonald's the "cutting the corners" award in local advertising?

In fact, Pacquiao evidently had to cram and later pace himself masterfully in order to survive and win the lung-busting 12-round bout at the Araneta Big Dome last July 2.

Now, speaking of rush-rush jobs, here's a timely wake-up call from a very concerned sports fan on the country's participation in the forthcoming Asian Games.

Take it away, Sir:

***

Task Force Asian Games of the Philippine Olympic Committee has met with the national sports associations (NSAs) in relation to the Philippine campaign in the Doha Asiad this December, or some five months from now. A stringent criteria for athletes belonging to the Top 10 in the Asian region as automatic qualification has been set. For sports that do not have such ranking in the Asian or even World level, the task force has still to make a decision. But what about the gold medalists in the previous Southeast Asian Games? What was the POC commitment to them?

After six months, the euphoria at the Philippine Sports Commission over the success in the SEA Games 2005 is still high. In fact, the PSC has not met the NSAs relative to training and preparation of the athletes qualified to the Asian Games (by the Task Force). When will the Asian Games preparation start in earnest?

Knowing the PSC, it will create its own Task Force AG to justify travel and assorted expenses.

While the First Gentleman Foundation was again expected to rally corporate support, this back-up agency has cooled down and seemed to have lost interest in pursuing such noble project. This is a clear case of sports again falling victim to dirty politics. Fortunately, for the national athletes and the PSC, the 2006 national budget (PSC's P28 million) was not approved. Ergo, the 2005 PSC budget of P108 million, over and above the National Sports Development Fund (P240 M), will be in effect. Since the SEA Games hosting has already been done, it goes without saying that the PSC would be left with more money to spend for the Asian Games preparations, and perhaps to settle long overdue debts incurred during last year's hosting of the SEA Games.

So what is the PSC waiting for? If money is still
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Dolphins eye 4th straight triumph

PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN guns for a fourth straight victory against winless Jose Rizal even as Perpetual and Mapua clash today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Orphaned by coach Junel Baculi and a loser in the inaugurals, the Dolphins have started to gather steam under interim mentor Joel Dualan and will be coming into the 2 p.m. game looking to grab solo second behind unbeaten and idle Letran. The Heavy Bombers remain the only winless side in the tournament. Their second loss came Wednesday, a 70-74 heart-breaker against Letran where they almost erased a 12-point deficit and came to within two in the final 43 seconds. In the other seniors match at 4 p.m., the Cardinals hope to recover from a 69-55 loss to San Beda, while Perpetual will enter the game smarting from a loss to PCU. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Chase for Nokia golf final slots up

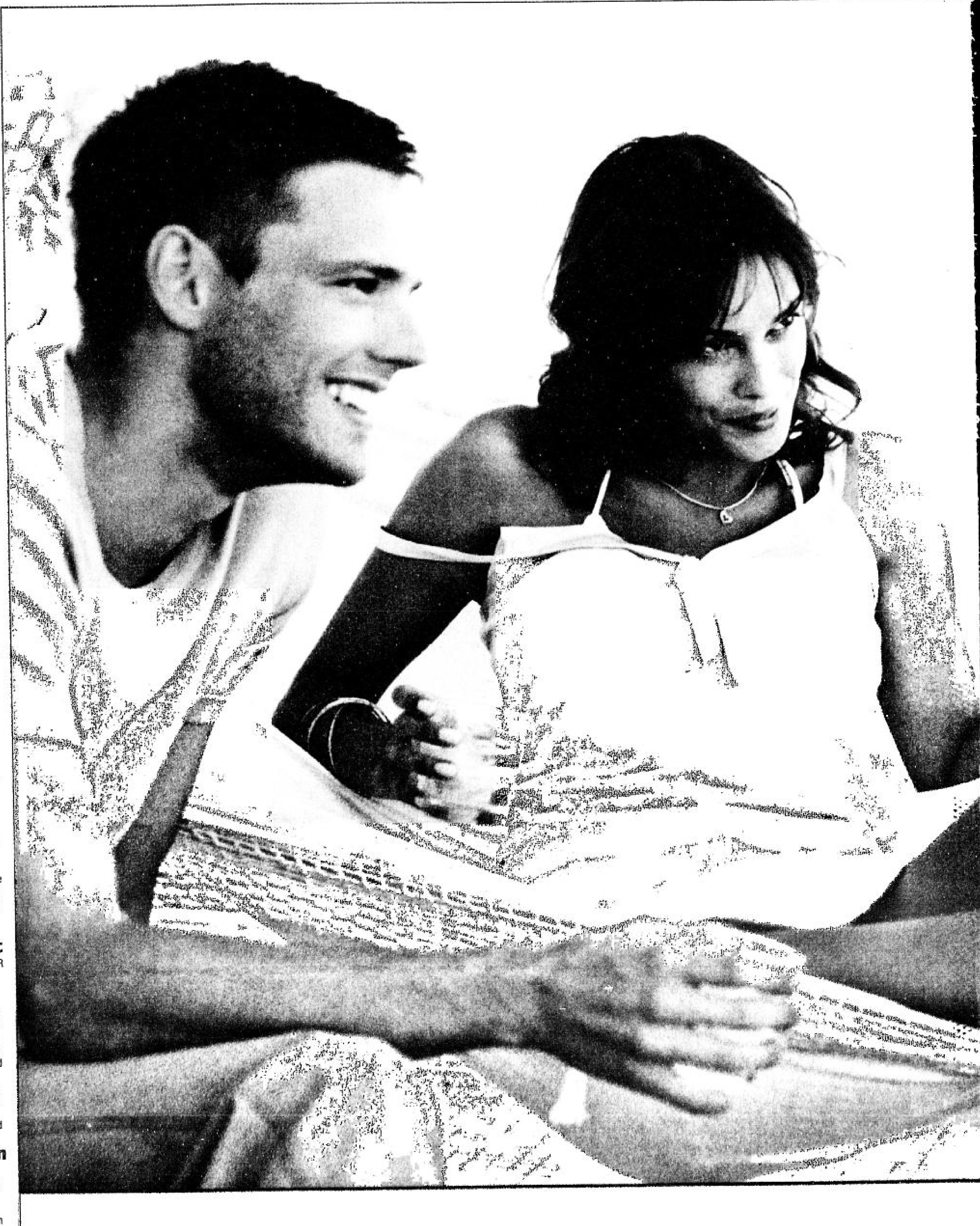
BF RESORT VILLAGE eyes the top spot in the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament as it tries to duplicate its first round romp at Forest Hills in the final 18 holes of the Nokia 3 eliminations at the Valley Golf Club today. Ed Cabrera and Louie Bustamante shot identical 39 points under the Stableford scoring system to spearhead the BFRV golfers' seven-point victory over the combined team of Cinco Hermanos/Monte Vista in the first round of the 36-hole qualifiers among the top golfing villages. BF Resort Village hopes to join the top finishers in the Nokia 1 and 2 divisions in the grand finals in November.

Derby jackpot

BY WINNING ALL FOUR matches, Leobeng Villarama of Bulacan hit the jackpot prize of P600,000 last Saturday in Roligon Mega Cockpit's 6-cock derby. The five-day event will have its championship round tomorrow, Tuesday, with a total guaranteed prize of P3.5 million at stake. For details, call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812.

'Salpukan' on

SOME 70 TOUGH fights will be featured at Makati Coliseum when the P3-M Salpukan Sa Taglugon 5-cock derby starts today with the 2-cock elimination round at 5 p.m. Five days of eliminations will be staged on July 10, 12, 15, 17 and 19 in the event that has B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. The qualifiers will battle for the title on July 22. For details, call 8963545 and 8956475 (look for Joan or Stephanie).



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NDOY (a sports fan)

Veteran Cruz powers UP Maroons past UST Tigers

GAMES THURSDAY (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—UP vs National (Srs)
4 p.m.—Adamson vs Santo Tomas (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

VETERAN GUARD MARVIN CRUZ buried a short jumper with three-tenths of a second left yesterday to lift University of the Philippines to a 94-92 victory over Santo Tomas in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The rookie-laden Maroons outsteadied the Tigers in a wild endgame as Cruz capped a 25-point, eight-assist, seven-rebound and four-steal effort with the winning basket from just inside the keyhole.

"No one believed in us," said Cruz. "But we're here in this tournament, we're here to show that we can keep up with the top teams."

The 5-foot-9 Cruz gave everything he had for the young Maroons, who joined opening-day winners University of the East and Ateneo.

Guard Miguel de Asis, one of nine rookies in the UP lineup, had an impressive debut as he fired 18 of his 20 points from beyond the arc.

"There were lapses, but the players played well," said UP coach Joe Lipa, a veteran who started another tour of duty with the school he guided to its only UAAP title in 1986.

Earlier, the Ateneo Blue Eaglets opened the junior basketball hostilities with an 83-56 blowout of the National University Bullpups.

Senior forward Raymond Austria shot 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Eaglets, who lost to the UP Junior Maroons in the Final Four last season.

The Katipunan-based squad dictated the tempo from the opening quarter behind Enzo Katipunan and Tonino Gonzaga, who finished with 13 markers apiece.

In the second high school game, Dexter Rosales pumped in a game-high 18 points to lead the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws to a lopsided 99-61 triumph over the UE Pages.

Jonathan Banal, son of former FEU coach Koy Banal, shot 11 of his 16 points in the pivotal third quarter, where the Baby Tams outscored the Pages, 36-16.

The varsity scores:

UP 94—Cruz 25, De Asis 20, David 14, Reyes 12, Sorongon 9, Buyco 7, Epres 4, Serios 2, Co 1, Maniego 0, Cacha 0, Braganza 0.

UST 92—Cruz 16, Vizcarra 14, Duncil 12, Espiritu 12, Cuan 11, Ababou 11, Cortez 8, Evangelista 3, Taylor 3, Dizon 2, Gile 0, Allera 0.

Quarters: 23-21, 45-43, 65-64, 94-92.

Milo run winners

ROXAS CITY—ARMYman Adonis Lubaton and the promising Marijen Campos topped the Roxas City leg of the 30th National Milo Marathon here yesterday. The 27-year-old Lubaton of Iloilo City won when the early leader briefly lost his way while the 19-year-old Campos of Roxas City led all the way in capturing her second Milo Marathon leg championship. Local bet Rogin Diaz was poised to capture the men's race but he overshot the turning point and lost his early lead to Lubaton and Ramie Lacson of Jamindan, Capiz. Lubaton, who placed fifth overall in the 42K grand finale in Metro Manila last year, completed the 21K elimination race in one hour 16 minutes and three seconds. Campos, on the other hand, finished the race in 1:29:39, 10 minutes ahead of her nearest pursuer, Hanny Jean Delfin. The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions qualified for the national finals

Ukrainian takes yellow jersey

RENNES, FRANCE—Serhiy Honchar became the first Ukrainian to take the Tour de France leader's yellow jersey by dominating the first long time trial of the race on Saturday. The T-Mobile rider was easily the strongest against the clock, beating American Floyd Landis in the seventh stage by more than a minute. Sebastian Lang from Germany was third. Honchar, who turned 36 last week, grabbed the front of the yellow jersey in delight after it was slipped onto his shoulders on the podium. He said it was the best day of his career since he won the world time trial title in 2000. "It was totally unexpected. I did my maximum," he said through a translator on French television. After a week of mostly flat stages that favored sprinters, the first long individual time trial of the Tour was expected to give an indication of the overall race favorites. The shakeout didn't end up exactly that way, though many anticipated favorites ranked in the top 20 in the overall standings. *AP*

Singh leads; Tiger in hunt

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—Tiger Woods vaulted into contention while Vijay Singh grabbed the lead at the Western Open on Saturday. Phil Mickelson, meanwhile, dropped out of the picture with a poor third round at Cog Hill. Singh is at 11-under 202 for the tournament—two strokes ahead of Carl Pettersson, Mathew Goggin, Stewart Cink, Trevor Immelman and Joe Ogilvie. Singh shot an even 35 on the front nine but birdied three after the turn, including No. 17, to finish the round at 3-under 68. He was two strokes off the lead when the day began. Woods was tied with defending champion Jim Furyk and Scott Gutschewski at 8 under, three shots behind Singh, after a 66 on the par-71 course. Mickelson shot 75 on Saturday and was 3 over for the tournament. Woods continued to rebound after missing the cut at the US Open and shooting 1-over 72 on Thursday. A 67 on Friday put him at 3 under heading into the third round. *AP*

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Germans take 3rd place, feel like world champs

STUTTGART—UNABLE TO ACHIEVE their goal of becoming world champions, host nation Germany hailed themselves as the people's champions after ending their World Cup campaign on a high with a 3-1 victory over Portugal in the third-place playoff on Saturday.

Two great goals from Bastian Schweinsteiger and an own goal from Armando Petit saw Germany net the consolation of third prize.

While the win could not make amends for the shattering 2-0 semifinal defeat to Italy, it capped off Germany's tournament in style and the German media hailed their heroes.

"You are our world champions," headlined Bild am Sonntag. "Third place—but with all respect to France and Italy it is we who feel like the world champions."

"Germany has played the most attractive football in the tournament and scored the most goals.

"The only thing we want to hear now is the yes word from (Jurgen) Klinsmann."

Germany manager Jurgen Klinsmann, a World Cup winner with West Germany in 1990, has yet to decide whether he will stay on as national coach saying he needed some time to gather his thoughts.

"So much has happened in the last few weeks and I haven't taken it all on board yet. Give me a few days," Klinsmann pleaded.

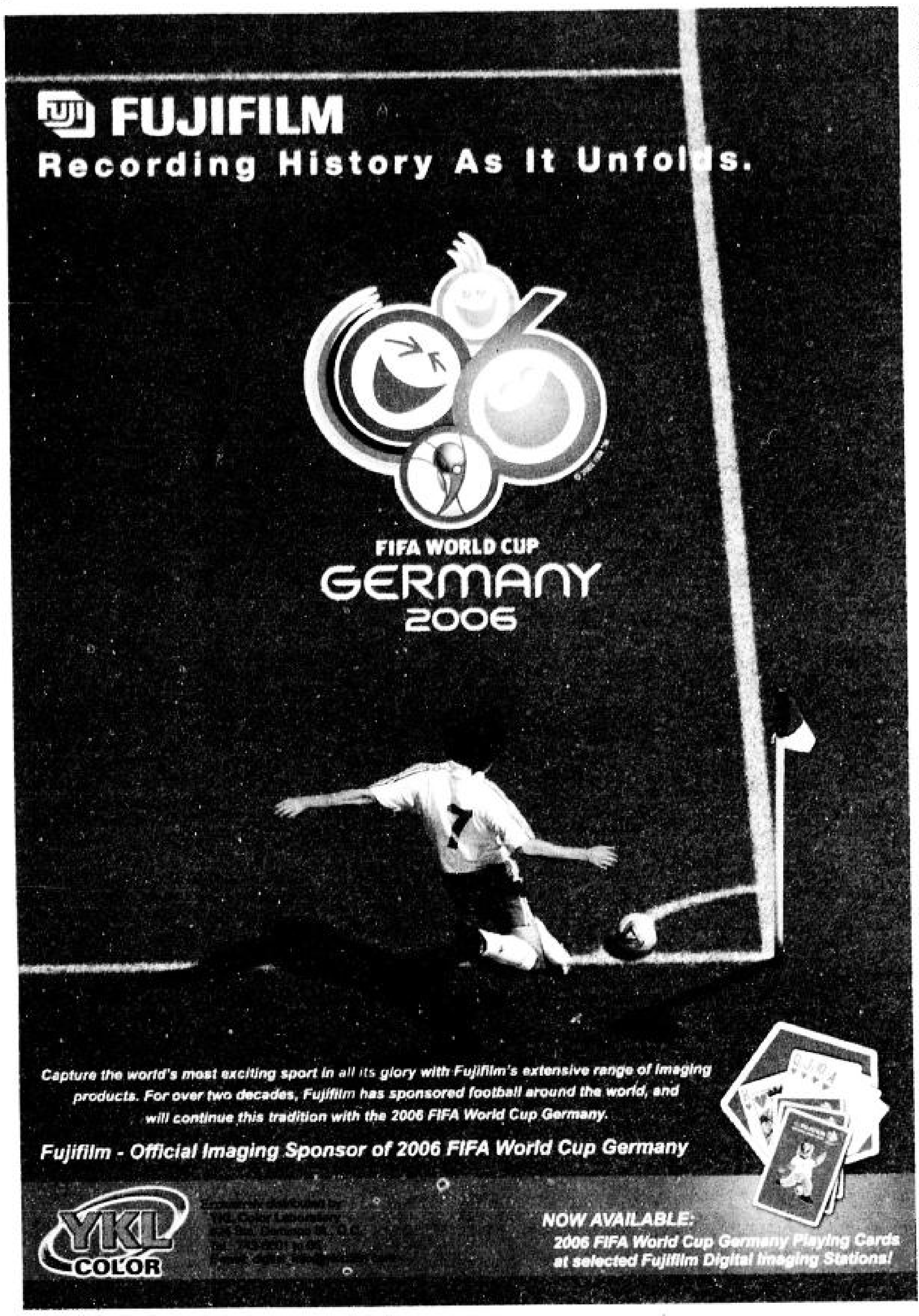
"I am overwhelmed by emotion at the moment and need to process things in my mind before making a decision."

After a rocky start, the German press has taken to Klinsmann and his attacking brand of football.

"The people's champions," declared the Frankfurter Allgemeine. "A perfect way to sign off. We may not have become champions but our performances are that of world champions."

German captain Michael Ballack, who missed the Portugal win through injury, said the players would try to convince Klinsmann to stay on.

"We will talk to the coach individually and try to convince him to stay—if he has not yet decided," explained Ballack. *AFP*



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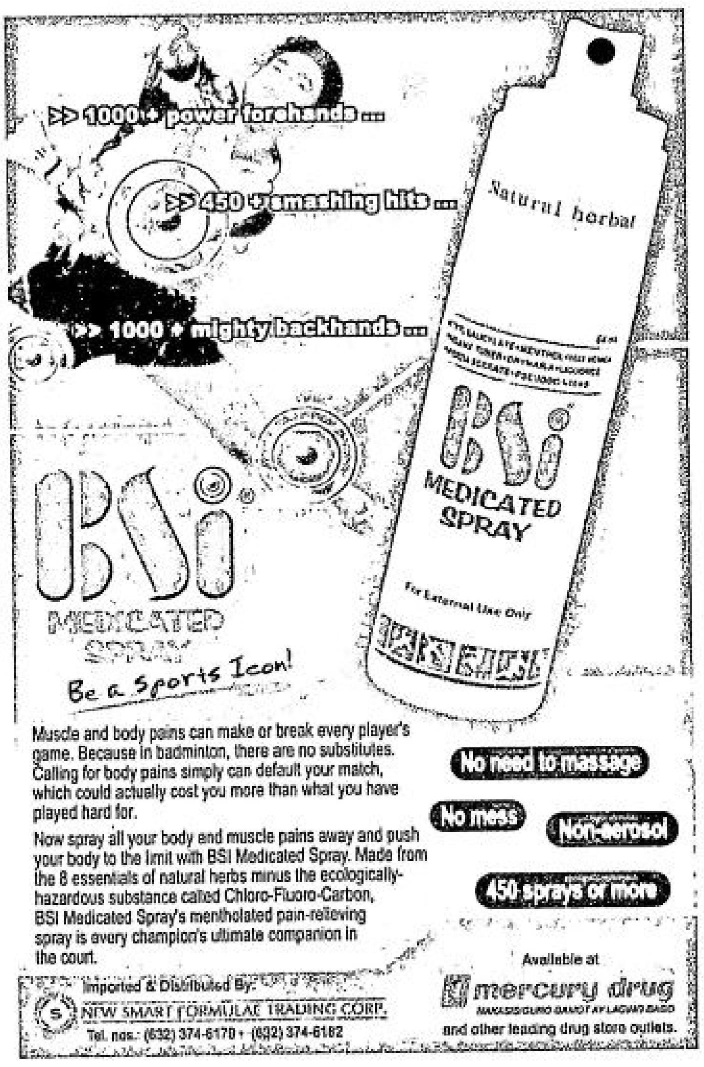
Estanislao, Velez bag junior titles

KARYN VELEZ AND Ronnel Estanislao staked their claim as the country's next badminton superstars by trouncing Gelita Castillo and Ralph Hidalgo, respectively, to claim the juniors crowns at the close yesterday of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships at the Glorietta. Underscoring her domination of the 16-under division, Velez completely dominated Castillo, 21-9, 21-11, to rule the girls' category. Estanislao struggled past Ralph Hidalgo in the first set but fashioned out a 21-18, 21-11 victory in the boys' side. Those victories netted Velez and Estanislao P8,000 each plus gift items from the sponsoring JVC (Phils.), Inc. and Victor, Bacchus Energy Drink, Lactacyd, Snickers Chocolates, Pioneer Life, LTIME studio, Lifestyle Watch Store and Alaska, Accel and Sunbolt.



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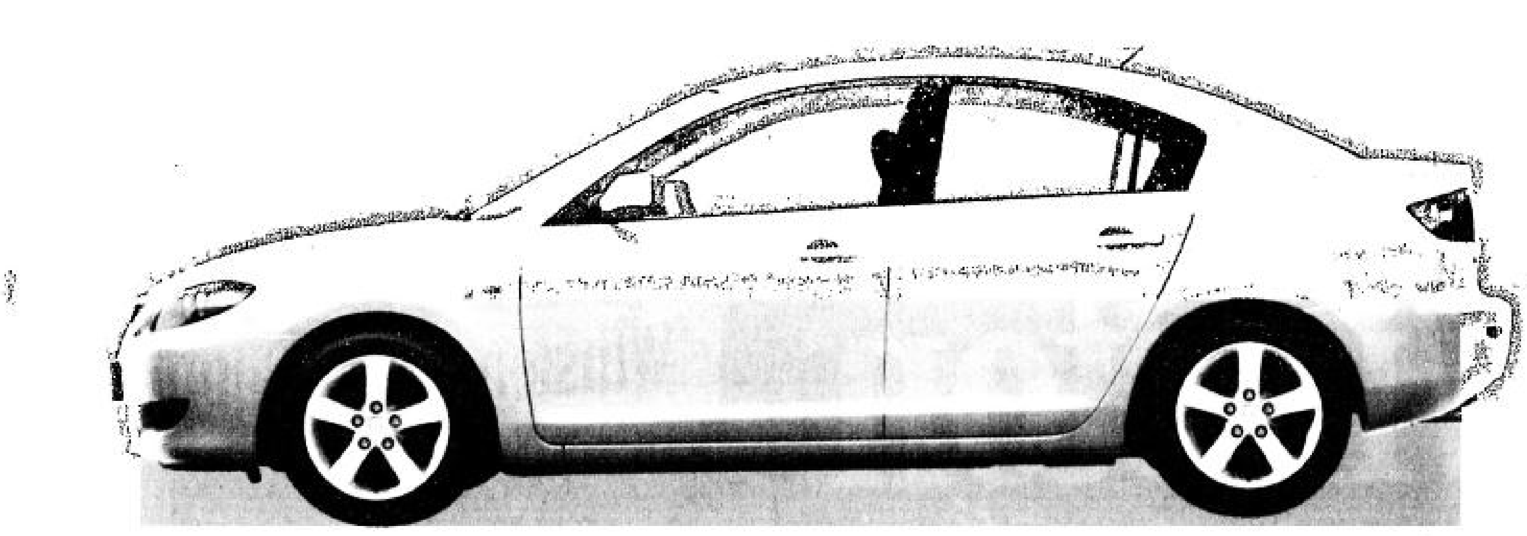

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

message t and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Watching the iconic quartet perform is not unlike reliving the long-lost big band era.

Manhattan Transfer shakes the Big Dome

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor
Photos by Ernie U. Sarmiento

REVIEW

AND NOW, A CONCERT BY foreign artists who were not trying to resuscitate dormant, or dead, careers.

Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum, the pop-jazz vocal quartet Manhattan Transfer demonstrated how talent, energy, extensive musical knowledge and, most importantly, constant gigging, could electrify an audience—even one that continues to reel from a spate of nostalgia acts.

What distinguishes the group from other recent Manila visitors is the quality of its age-defying performance. Banish the thought that Tim Hauser, MT's brains, looks quite grandfatherly now. Or that Janis Siegel, Alan Paul and Cheryl Bentyne have likewise approached advancing years with greying hair or unintended flab here and there, and whatnot.

Incredible vocals

But cherish the idea that they seem to have ingested every known elixir for building incredible vocal chords and lung power.

Seriously, the consistency with which they tackled both their four-part harmonies and individual solo numbers left us breathless and wondering how they could sound so graceful and flawless despite unusually difficult phrasing in most of their numbers.

Which brings us to another significant appeal that has not diminished since the group's inception in the early 1970s. We refer to a transparent and sparkling love for jazz in all its forms—from classic to revolutionary.

Watching the concert was not unlike reliving a long-lost era. It was like being thrust right back into smoky clubs and/or grand halls where bands and orchestras defined— with much enthusiasm—otherwise abstract ideas as "swing," "bop," and "fusion."

Hauser said Manhattan Transfer had always been much influenced by Count Basie, which partly explained why the songs, though intricately arranged, flowed like satin even as they fizzed up with an infectious sense of fun.

Happy hippie

It was clearly not a jazz gig for the uptight, snooty set. The sight of Bentyne alone, long limbs flailing, like a hippie on the happy pill, was enough to loosen up the audience. She was a joy to behold, a sprightly woman whose energy was matched only by her superb vocal calisthenics.

Each member of the quartet was given a solo spot, updating their listeners on tunes they had recorded on their own while keeping Manhattan Transfer going like a smooth-running train.

The group has so far recorded some 27

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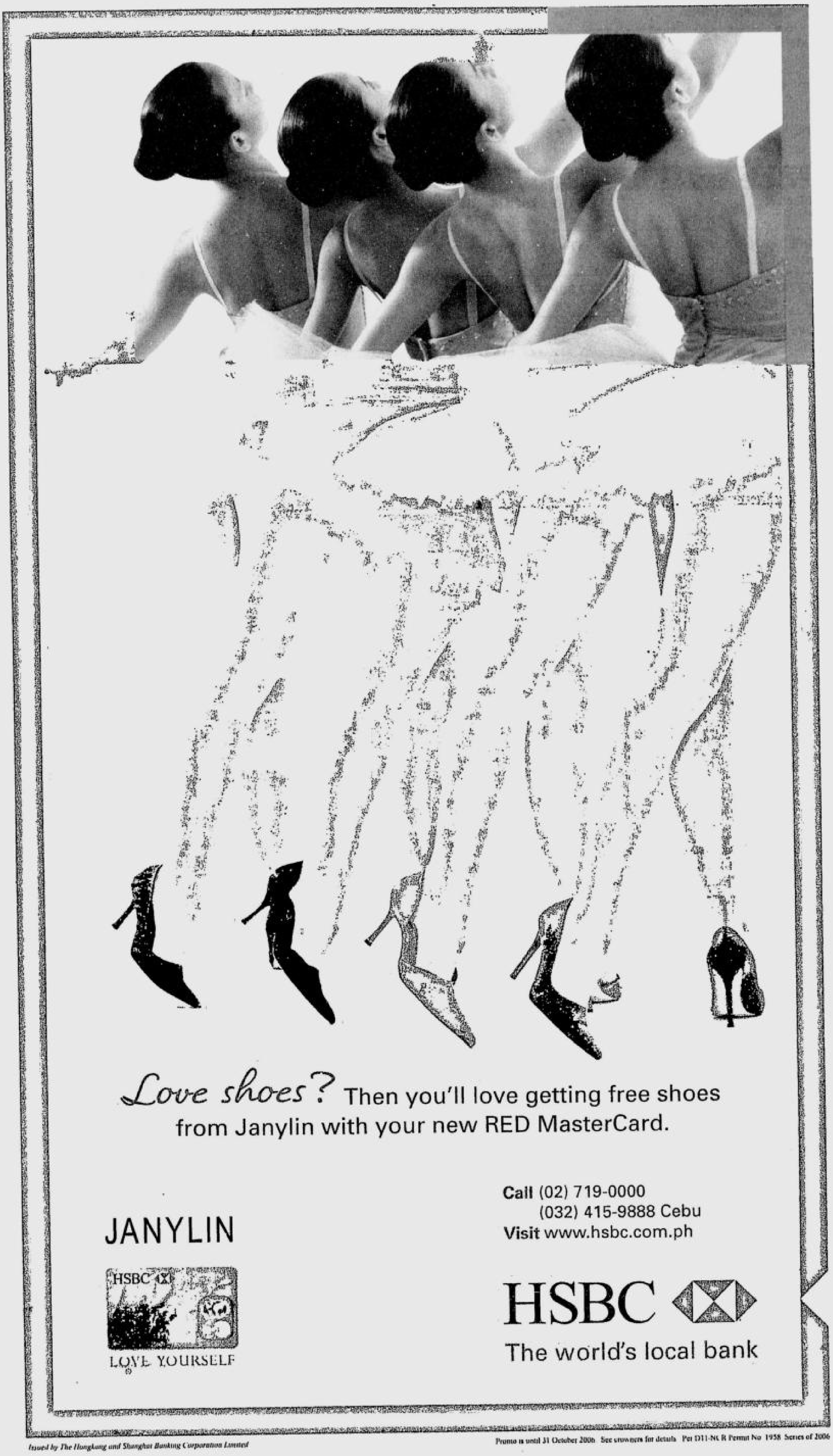

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3 SEE NO EVIL
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4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

5 LOVE WRECKED
11:25 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

6 UNITED 93
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

7 LAKE HOUSE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

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9 SPL
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3 SEE NO EVIL
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 SPL
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 LOVE WRECKED
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 LAKE HOUSE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 RV Sneak Preview

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE NUN
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:25 2:40 5:55 9:10

3 SEE NO EVIL
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

4 LOVE WRECKED
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

5 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 RV Sneak Preview

7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:15 3:35 7:00

8 SPL
2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 RV Sneak Preview
3 SPL
4 SEE NO EVIL

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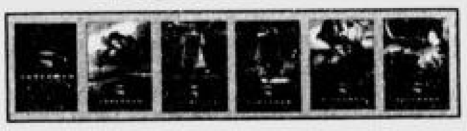

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2 THE NUN
3 SPL
4 SEE NO EVIL
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3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 RV Sneak Preview

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3 LAKE HOUSE
4 THE RENT
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What can take away Superman's powers?	S. Krypton
What material blocks Superman's x-ray vision?	E. Green Kryptonite
What is the name of Superman's secret identity?	R. Lead
Where does Clark Kent work?	U. Kal-El
Who is Superman's love interest?	N. Lois Lane

How to join? E-mail you answers together with your name, address, age and contact number to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com or send this page together with your particulars at your nearest SM Cinema branch. All answers must be correct in order to qualify. Multiple entries received will only be counted as a single entry. Deadline for submission of entries in on July 12, 2006.

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
UNITED 93
RV
SCARY MOVIE 4
FAST AND FURIOUS 3

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CINEMA 2
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UNITED 93
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SUPERMAN RETURNS
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SUPERMAN RETURNS

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THE NUN
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SUPERMAN RETURNS

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THE NUN

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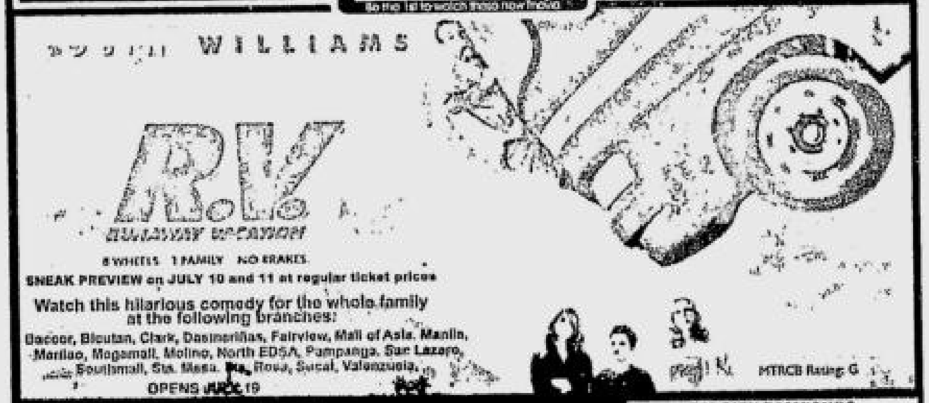
RV
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
THE NUN

movietime SNEAK PREVIEW



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OPENS JULY 19

MTRCB Rating: G

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SILENT HYILL
AQUAMARINE
RV

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
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SUPERMAN RETURNS

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SCARY MOVIE 4
THE NUN
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LOVEWRECKED
SUPERMAN RETURNS
RV
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SUPERMAN RETURNS

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THE OMEN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
GARFIELD 2
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SUPERMAN RETURNS
GARFIELD 2
SUBMERGED
SCARY MOVIE 4

SM CITY CLARK
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
INSIDE MAN
THE DARK
SUPERMAN RETURNS
RV

SM CITY PAMPANGA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
RV
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE NUN
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY MOLINO
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SUPERMAN RETURNS
RV
AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY STA. ROSA
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CHAOS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
INSIDE MAN
SCARY MOVIE 4
LAKE HOUSE
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
SUPERMAN RETURN
SUPERMAN RETURN

SM CITY ILOILO
TAKE THE LEAD
RESERVED
SUPERMAN RETURN
FAST AND FURIOUS
LAKE HOUSE
SUPERMAN RETURN
RESERVED
AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY DAVAO
SUPERMAN RETURN
AMERICAN HAUNTING
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FAST AND FURIOUS

SM CITY CAGAYAN
SUPERMAN RETURN
GARFIELD 2
SCARY MOVIE 4
SUPERMAN RETURN

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

TIM Hauser

CHERYL Bentyne

Shaking the Big Dome

From page A2-1

albums and continues to play in small and big venues in and outside its US homeland. That was why its Araneta show was alive and jumping with a varied lineup that didn't rely solely on hits.

Collaborators

Which brings us to one more peculiar charm the group could lay claim to—the way it transformed certified hits by other artists into its own very own, certainly not by covering it, but rather by transforming the whole song with the help of collaborators like Jay Hendricks, whose lyrics to a Weather Report cult classic, Joe Zawinul's "Birdland," turned it into the most played jazz record of 1980 and became a Manhattan Transfer signature.

Whenever the Araneta crowd shouted out for the hits, the group would simply laugh it off and proceed with its unpredictable set—this was also a chance to note the no-nonsense interplay of the quartet's four-piece band.

Giddy

And when the hits did come, hearing "Boy from New York City," "Trickle Trickle," "Until I Met You," "Twilight Zone" and many others produced a giddy feeling, making it easy to overlook the fact that these "pop" gems were the result of so much study and collaboration between Manhattan Transfer and its tight production team.

Overall, it must be mentioned how a perfectly mixed audio system helped produce a wonderful concert—something that the Big Dome failed to provide for the front-act duo of singer Richard Merk and musical director Toti Fuentes.

MARCH of the Penguins

‘RV’ sneak previews

THE ROBIN WILLIAMS FAMILY ADVENTURE comedy “RV” will have special sneak previews today and tomorrow in selected theaters.

The movie is about an overworked family man Bob Munro (Williams), his wife Jamie (Cheryl Hines), their 15-year-old daughter Cassie (Joanna "Jojo" Levesque) and 12-year-old son Carl (John Hutcherson) who are in desperate need of some quality time together.

Kid Fit

After promising to take them on a family vacation in Hawaii, Bob abruptly changes plans without telling them. Instead of a week in a tropical paradise, they’re going on a road trip to Colorado in a recreational vehicle or RV.

Distributed by Columbia Pictures, the movie opens in Metro Manila on July 19.

JOHN Hutcherson of “RV”

‘Penguins’ in Filipino

“March of the Penguins,” the 78th Annual Academy Awards Best Documentary Feature, will be released by Unitel Pictures and shown in local theaters next month.

The docu, narrated by Morgan Freeman, the documentary will have a local version retitled “Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?” with Sharon Cuneta as narrator. The script was translated by Chris Martinez and Eugene Evasco.

"Penguins" follows the remarkable journey of thousands of Emperor penguins across the ice deserts of Antarctica.

Directed by Luc Jacquet, the docu runs for 85 minutes.

Wildlife show

"The Great Savannah Race," a three-part series featuring the wildebeest migration, premieres on July 16, 9 p.m. on the Animal Planet.

The journey begins in Tanzania, where veterinarian Patrick Garcia and scientists Anja Brinch Jensen and Sophie Grange gather for the start of their mission: to fit 10 animals—seven wildebeests and three zebras—with collars so they can be tracked throughout the journey via satellite.

The series follows the daily trials of the 10 main characters from the start to the finish line.

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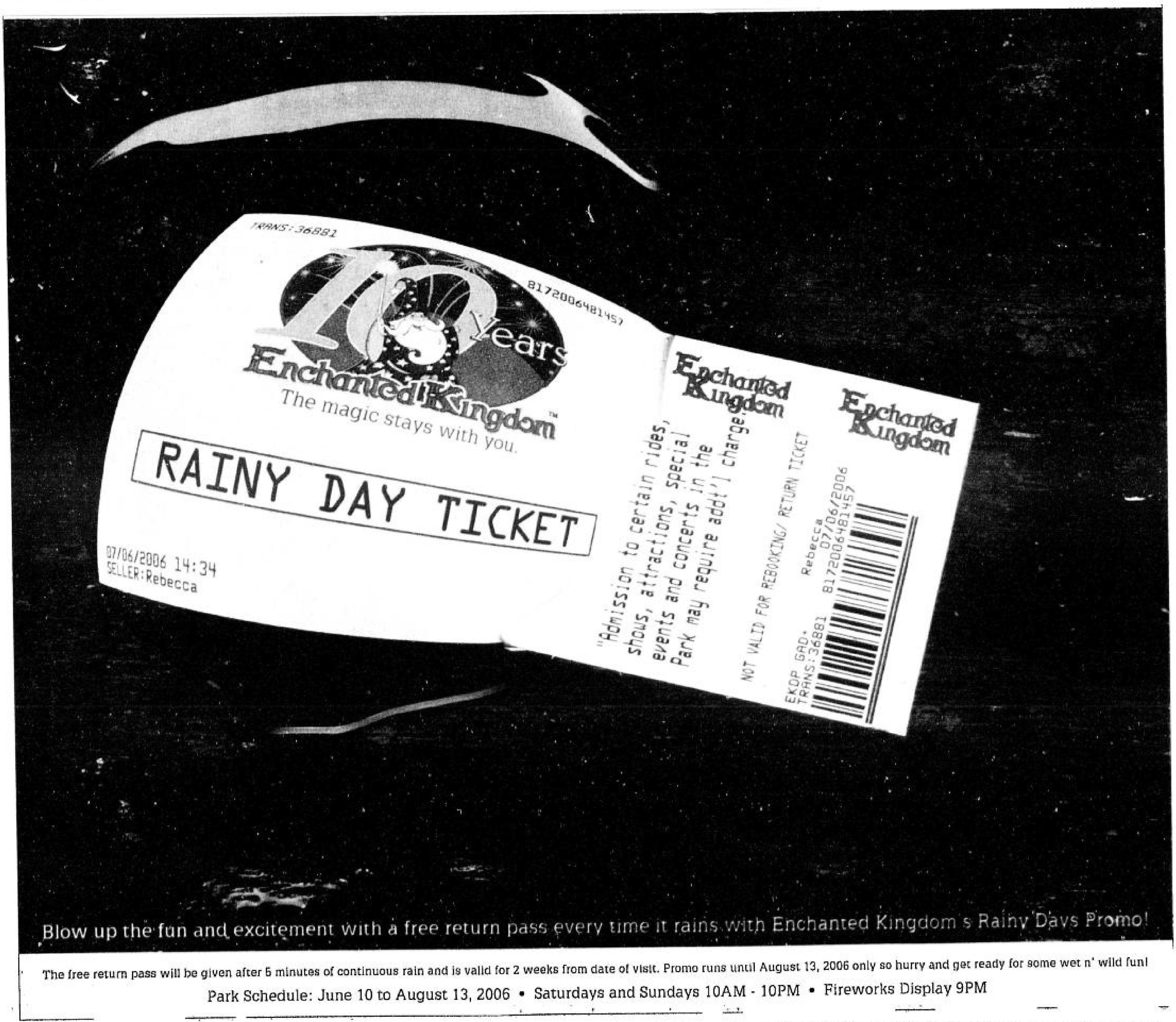
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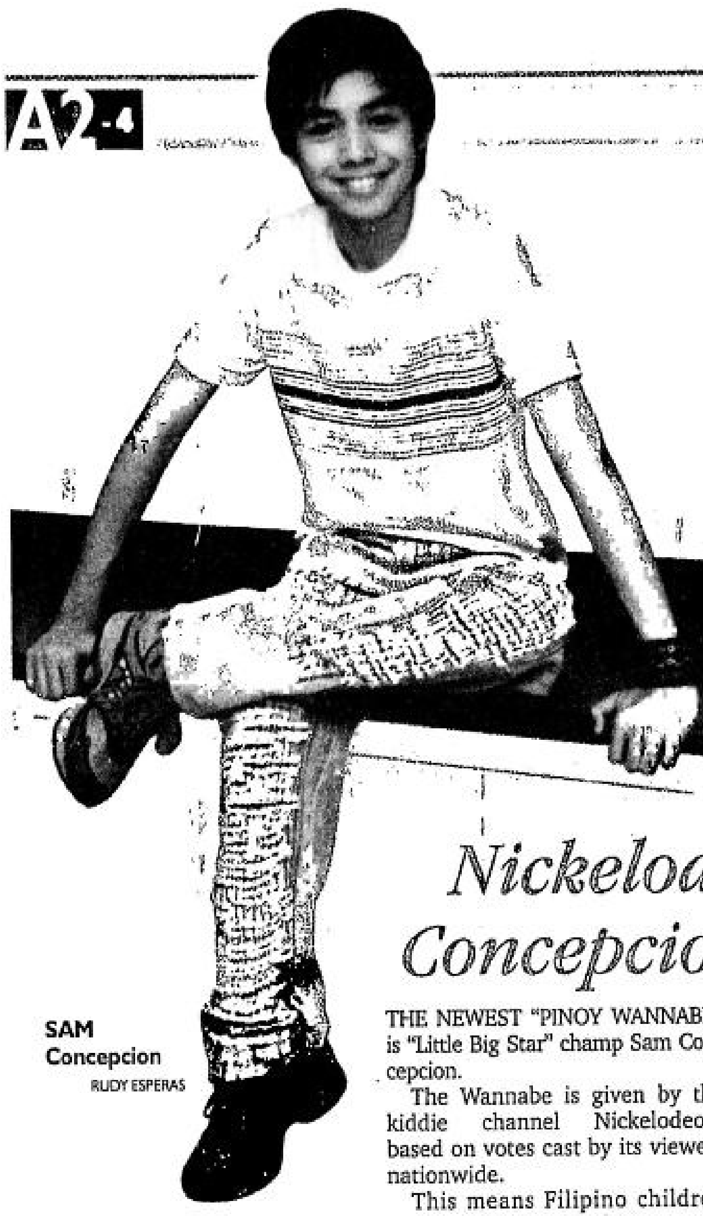
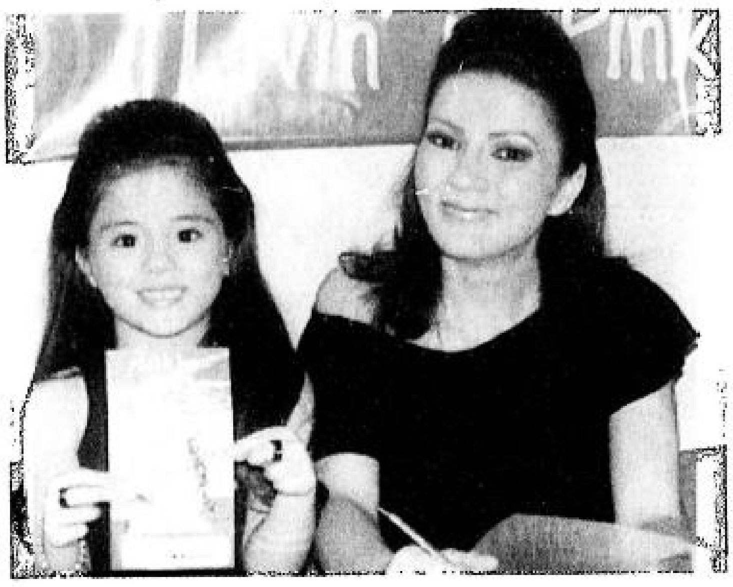


SAM Concepcion
RUDY ESPERAS



CARMINA Villaroel with daughter Cassy

AKIKO Thompson

Nickelodeon voters pick Sam Concepcion as 'Pinoy Wannabe'

THE NEWEST "PINOY WANNABE" is "Little Big Star" champ Sam Concepcion.

The Wannabe is given by the kiddie channel Nickelodeon, based on votes cast by its viewers nationwide.

This means Filipino children who watch Nickelodeon would like to be like Sam, more than any other celebrity. He was pitted against Sam Milby, Manny Pacquiao, Iza Calzado and Bianca Gonzales. Previous Wannabes are Sarah Geronimo (2004) and Kitchie Nadal (2005).

BRYCE Dallas

Annabelle, after the outburst

AFTER her widely reported outburst over GMA 7's reportage of the Gutierrez family's tax case filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Annabelle Rama said on Friday that she was grateful to the network for what it had done for her son Richard Gutierrez.

As his manager, Annabelle had pulled out Richard—star of such Kapuso hit series as "Mulawin" and "Captain Barbell"—from the musical special mounted by the station for its 56th anniversary on Sunday evening.

UMA Thurman

In a phone call to INQUIRER, Rama said, "They turned Richard into a big star. For that, I will always be grateful." *Nini Valera*

RUSHES

P20-M party

SPEAKING of the anniversary treat, held at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard—Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for Entertainment TV told INQUIRER that about P20 million was spent to mount the show.

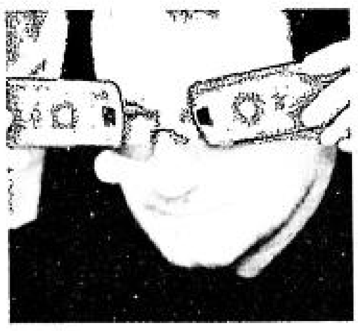
Fearless Uma

RECALLS Susan Stroman, director of "The Producers," movie version: "When I met with Uma [Thurman], who's almost six feet tall, she asked, 'Do you think it's okay that I'm so much taller than Nathan and Matthew?' I said, 'Absolutely—they'll look up to you like a goddess.' She's fearless, and this makes a great musical comedy performer. She loves the physical challenge of it."

Act of faith

DIRECTOR M. Night Shyamalan on Bryce Dallas Howard—his blind leading lady in "The Village" and now his nymph in "Lady in the Water":

"Casting her was an act of faith, I hadn't written the script yet, but I knew I wanted her to do it."



BONO

A model at 4

BUT why shouldn't Pinkbox—an accessories store—sign up this little doll for its image model? But Cassy is coming in with mom, Carmina Villarroel, quite a doll herself, for this year's campaign.

Not an ounce

DID you know that Akiko Thompson has not a drop of Filipino blood? She had merely taken on Filipino citizenship, and has since won international sports awards for the country. Akiko is one of the new reporters on "Probe"—now seen on ABS-CBN (Wednesdays, 11 p.m.)—along with Pinky Webb and Ricky Carandang.

Hello, Bono?

HELLO, Moto? It's Bono of U2. The rock mega star is endorsing Motorola's red MOTOSLVR, the first in a brand new portfolio of mobile handsets. We don't think Bono is doing this for nothing, although the big bucks are actually going to fund a campaign to help eliminate AIDS in Africa.

Jacko remembers

SANTA Monica, California—The plaintiff in a lawsuit against Michael Jackson prepared to rest his case Friday after the jury was shown hours of videotaped testimony from the star, who professed little memory of major financial transactions involving the former associate who claims he's owed $1.6 million.

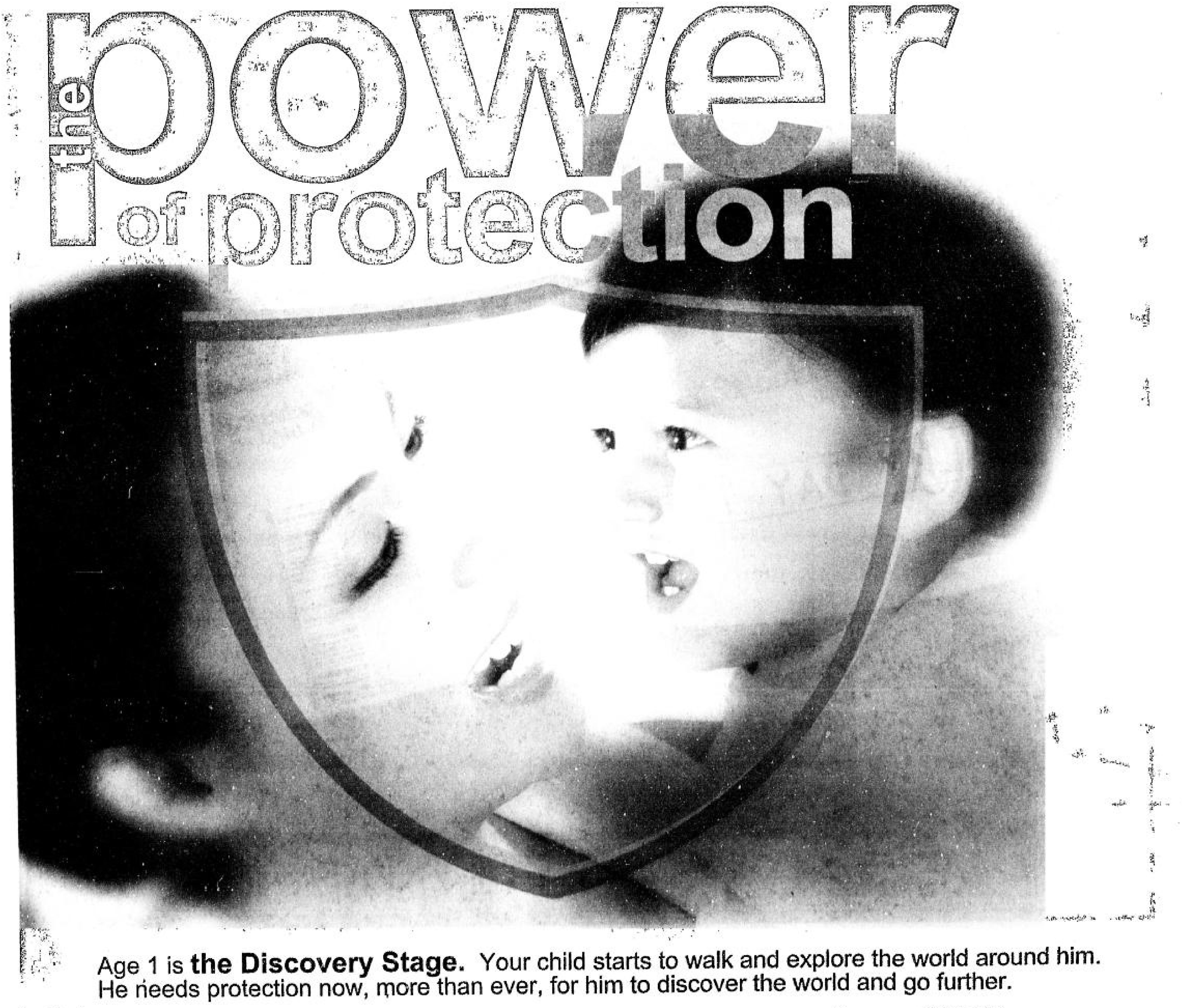
Jackson, who was interviewed twice in London by F. Marc Schaffel's attorney, Howard King, said he did remember at least one occasion when Schaffel delivered money to him on the set of a music video.

He said it arrived in a fast-food bag and they called it "french fries," which became their slang for money.

But Jackson said he thought that any money Schaffel gave him came from Jackson's own funds.

"You never realized it was his own money?" asked King.

"I would never ask him for his money," Jackson responded. "That's ridiculous. I would never." *AP*



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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SEE NO EVIL	5 UNITED 93	6 SUPERMAN RETURNS	7 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 UNITED 93	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:10, 4.20, 7:30, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 3:10, 6:20, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 UNITED 93 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LOVEWRECKED 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:00, 6:10, 8:20, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 LOVEWRECKED		
	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SEE NO EVIL	5 UNITED 93	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 INSIDE MAN	4 SEE NO EVIL
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
	3 SEE NO EVIL	4 LOVEWRECKED	5 UNITED 93	

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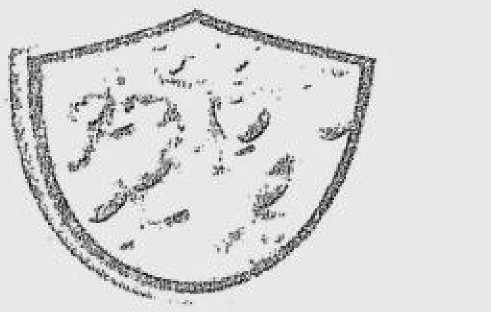

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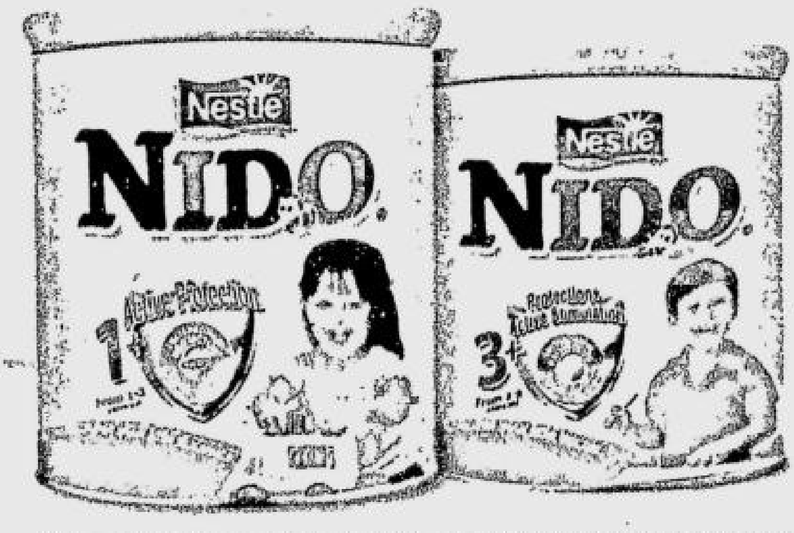

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See the world with Paolo and Miriam

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE POPULAR HOSTING TEAM OF PAOLO Bediones and Miriam Quiambao is currently making a comeback in the new GMA 7 show, "Pinoy Meets World." We caught the program's initial telecast last June 25, and found ourselves taking a trip with Paolo and Miriam all the way to—South Korea!

That's what the new show does: It takes viewers to different foreign destinations to appreciate the culture and tourist sights there, and also to interact with Filipinos who have chosen to live and work abroad.

Why Korea for the program's first sortie? Well, it isn't as humdrum-near as Hong Kong, but it isn't Europe, either, so it's both exciting and manageable.

It also turns out that, due to the popularity of Korean telenovelas on local TV, the people behind GMA 7's new program feel that Pinoy's interest in South Korea is high, hence the decision to visit that country with the show's TV cameras.

It's no surprise, therefore, that after visiting the usual theme park and other tourist attractions, the show makes a beeline for the location sites used in the most popular period Korean telenovela, "Jewel in the Palace."

Since we aren't huge fans of imported TV melodramas, we found our attention wandering during this long section.

We also noted that the "extreme adventure" part of the show had yet to kick in, so our involvement was limited to appreciating the cultural and touristic points the show's Korean coverage made. And, frankly, that wasn't enough to sustain our interest.

We did perk up when the program focused on a Filipina who worked in Korea. That gave the show a more personal touch that it sorely needed.

We trust that there'll be more of this in future telecasts, as well as more involving challenges. Make no mistake, we love traveling, even if only vicariously via our TV set, and we appreciate that new show's international outlook. Its first telecast simply wasn't that involving, that's all. Nothing that greater creativity and hustle can't fix.

As for the new show's returning team of hosts, Paolo and Miriam did okay, but perhaps the program's rather sedate proceedings cramped their more gung-ho signature style.

Again, nothing that greater involvement can't take care of, so hopes remain high that, in due time, "Pinoy Meets World" will finally come into its own as a should-see TV show.

'Kapatid'

RPN-9's "Kapatid" is a 30-minute public affairs show that brings hope and cheer everyday at 4:30 p.m. Hosted by Dr. Joel Mendez, Connie Sison and Luanne Dy, the show has a livelihood segment, a portion on health problems, and a feature on people who have overcome great difficulties, thereby inspiring others not to lose hope.

Madonna

THE SPECIAL edition of Madonna's CD/DVD package "I'm Going to Tell You a Secret," has been released. Directed by Jonas Akerlund, the compelling documentary shows the singer at her most personal, political and spiritual.

The DVD includes bonus footage, while the live CD contains 14 tracks from 2004's "Reinvention" tour.

Freestyle

FREESTYLE is back with new members, a fresh sound and its latest album, "Freestyle Live @ 19 East." This is the first recording the band has done with new vocalists Joshua Desiderio and Mike Luis, and new bassist Rommel dela Cruz (formerly with Barbie's Cradle).

The tracks were recorded during the band's gig at 19 East. The carrier single, "Half-Crazy," is performed by Joshua.

The album will be launched on July 21 at the Music Hall, SM Mall of Asia. The band will also make in-store visits: On July 14, 4 p.m. at Tower Records Makati, 4:30 p.m. at Landmark, 5:30 p.m. at Music One Greenbelt, and 6 p.m. at Odyssey Music Greenbelt.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 LAKE HOUSE
PREMIERE SUPERMAN RETURNS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 AQUAMARINE
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5801 to 03
1 THE INSIDE MAN
2 SEE NO EVIL
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 ; 816.4216
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
4 SEE NO EVIL

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Batanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 THE OMEN 666
2 SCARY MOVIE 4

CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C 5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260150
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
5 SPL KILL THE BENT WOLF

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433594
1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SEE NO EVIL

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 546.7383
1 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 RESERVED

THEATRES
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 SCARY MOVIE 4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS - 3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 GARFIELD 2
3 SCARY MOVIE 4

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 REINCARNATION
2 SCARY MOVIE 4
3 THE LAKE HOUSE
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 UITED 93
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
6 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 GARFIELD - 2
8 LOVE WRECKED
9 SCARY MOVIE - 4
10 SEE NO EVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Paniqui) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 GARFIELD 2
3 SACRY MOVIE 4

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 PACQUIAO

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 (DOLBY) TAKE THE LEAD
3 (DOLBY) SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 (DOLBY) LOVE WRECKKED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 XXXWWW.COM
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 TAKAW TINGIN
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS - 3
4 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5 SILENT HILLS

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LOVE WRECKKED
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 SPL KILL THE BENT WOLF
5 R. V. (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DANDIDAS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 GARFIELD - 2

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 ; 533.3856
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 RESERVED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 ; 879.2029
1 THE OMEN 666
2 KAKAIBANG KARISMA

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POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LOVEWRECKED PG13 1:50,4:00,6:05, 8:15,10:30
SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10
RUNAWAY VACATION G 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10
SUPERMAN RETURNS G 1:50,5:00,8:10
UNITED 93 R13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00
SEE NO EVIL R18 2:00,4:00

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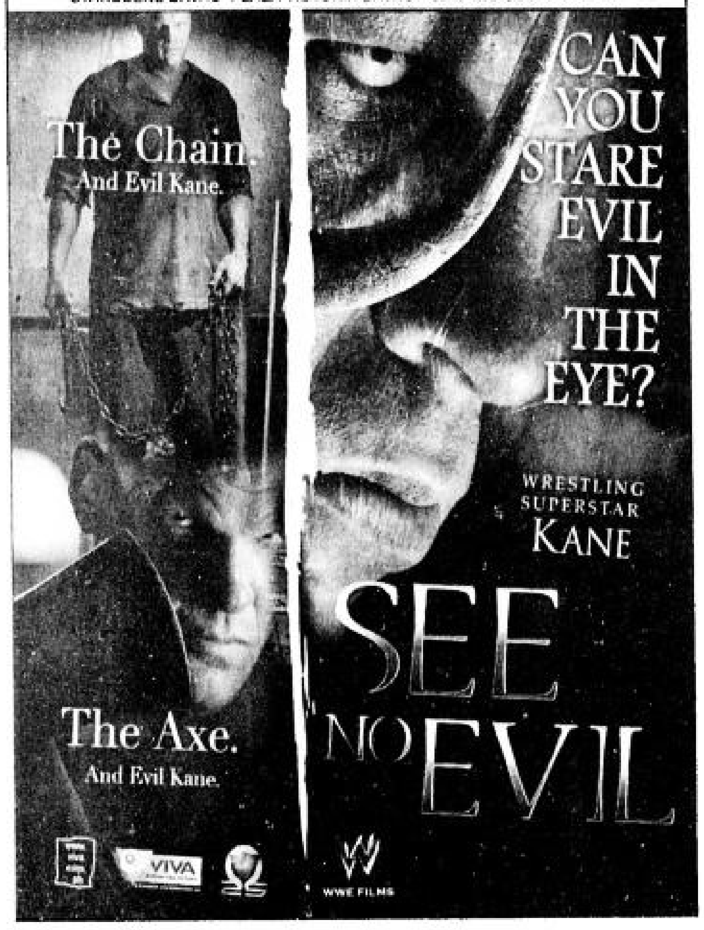
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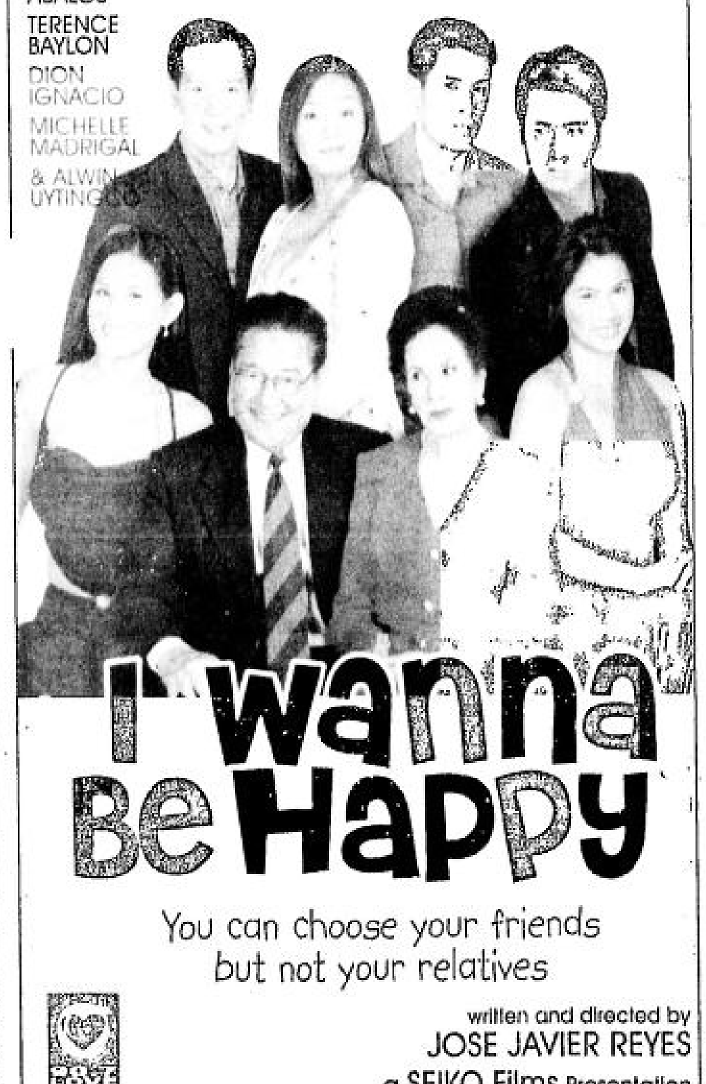
JASON ABALOS
TERENCE BAYLON
DION IGNACIO
MICHELLE MADRIGAL
& ALWIN UYTINGCO



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4 SEE NO EVIL 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45, 10:50 R-18

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② RV MTRCB GP 1 20, 3 30, 5 40, 7 50, 10 00
③ SEE NO EVIL MTRCB R-18 1.40, 3.45, 5.50, 7.55, 10:00
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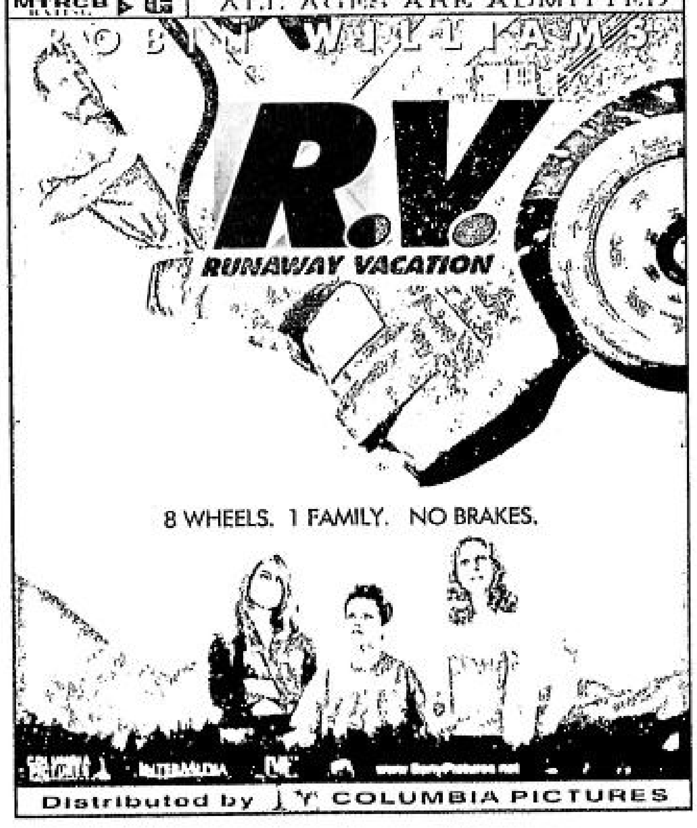

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ROUNDUP

'Jewel' returns

THE KOREANOVELA "JEWEL IN THE Palace" returns to GMA 7 tonight before "24 Oras."

The series, a certified hit in the Philippines, tells the inspiring true story of Jang Geum (Lee Young Ae), who was trained to become a court lady in the royal kitchen before she became a nurse and eventually, a well-respected physician.

Two cast members—Mi-Kyung Yang, who plays Jang's menter Lady Han; and Jeong-Eun Cho, who tackles the role of a young Jang—recently visited Manila.

LEE Young Ae

RP film wins in Italy

RAYA Martin's first fiction feature, "A Short Film About The Indio Nacional (or The Prolonged Sorrow of Filipinos)," won the Lino Micchiche Prize for Best Feature film in the Nuovo Cinema section of the recently concluded 42nd Pesaro Film Festival in Italy.

The 96-minute RP entry tied with the German film, "Longing" and also won the Premio MusicFeel, which entitles Martin to free soundtrack services for his next film project.

Martin is a 2005 graduate of the UP Film Institute and the first Filipino filmmaker to be accepted in the prestigious Cinefondation Residence du Festival de Cannes in Paris.

"Indio Nacional," premiered in the Philippines on June 12, is a collection of silent film vignettes on the Filipino common man during the colonial times. It stars Bodjie Pascua and actors from the Barasoain Kalingangan Theater Group.

"SIX FEET UNDER"

QTV's new home

BEGINNING July 12, cable subscribers can watch QTV programs on Channel 24 with better reception. GMA Network and Central CATV executives earlier signed an agreement providing that "programs... currently airing in ZOE Channel 11 and GMA UHF Channel 27 will be carried and/or aired by Central CATV (SkyCable and Home Cable) on cable Channel 24 effective July 12, 2006."

For Sun Cable viewers, QTV may be viewed on Channel 19; Destiny Cable viewers on Channel 15.

HBO's Emmy nods

HBO received 95 nominations for the upcoming 58th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

"Elizabeth I" topped HBO's list of nominees with 13 nods. "Mrs. Harris" got 12 and "Six Feet Under," nine. "Rome" has eight nods; "The Girl in the Cafe" and "The Sopranos" seven each; and "Baghdad ER," six.

Meanwhile, viewers in Asia can catch "Entourage" on July 30, "Curb Your Enthusiasm: Season One" and "Rome: Encores of Season One" in August and "Six Feet Under" (Season 5) in October.

'Superman' makes P135M

"SUPERMAN Returns" opened at No. 1 with a nationwide five-day weekend gross of P135.24 million, according to Warner Bros., the film's distributor.

In Metro Manila, the Bryan Singer-helmed action-adventure grossed P104.8M, breaking at least two existing records—biggest opening weekend previously held by "X-Men: The Last Stand" at P58.83 million; and highest weekend ever for a Warner Bros. picture, surpassing 2005's "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" at P79.23M.

The blockbuster's July 1 and July 2 figures in Metro Manila—P30.52 million and P25.44 million respectively—were also Warner Philippines' best-ever Saturday and Sunday grosses in history.

SUPERMAN

'King and I' auditions

BROADWAY Asia Entertainment is looking for six male and six female dancers for the Asian tour of the musical production "King and I." Candidates must be in their late teens to late 20s, preferably with knowledge of Thai dancing.

Interested parties should bring resumes with recent photos, heeled shoes and flats. They must be prepared to dance barefoot.

Auditions are set July 13 and 14 at the Steps studio in Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati. For pre-registration and scheduling, call Atlantis Productions, 892-7078 or 840-1187.

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THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	THE LAKE HOUSE 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	RV 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	
SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:00 / 1:40 / 3:20 / 5:00 / 6:40 / 8:20 / 10:00			SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:20 / 5:40 / 9:00

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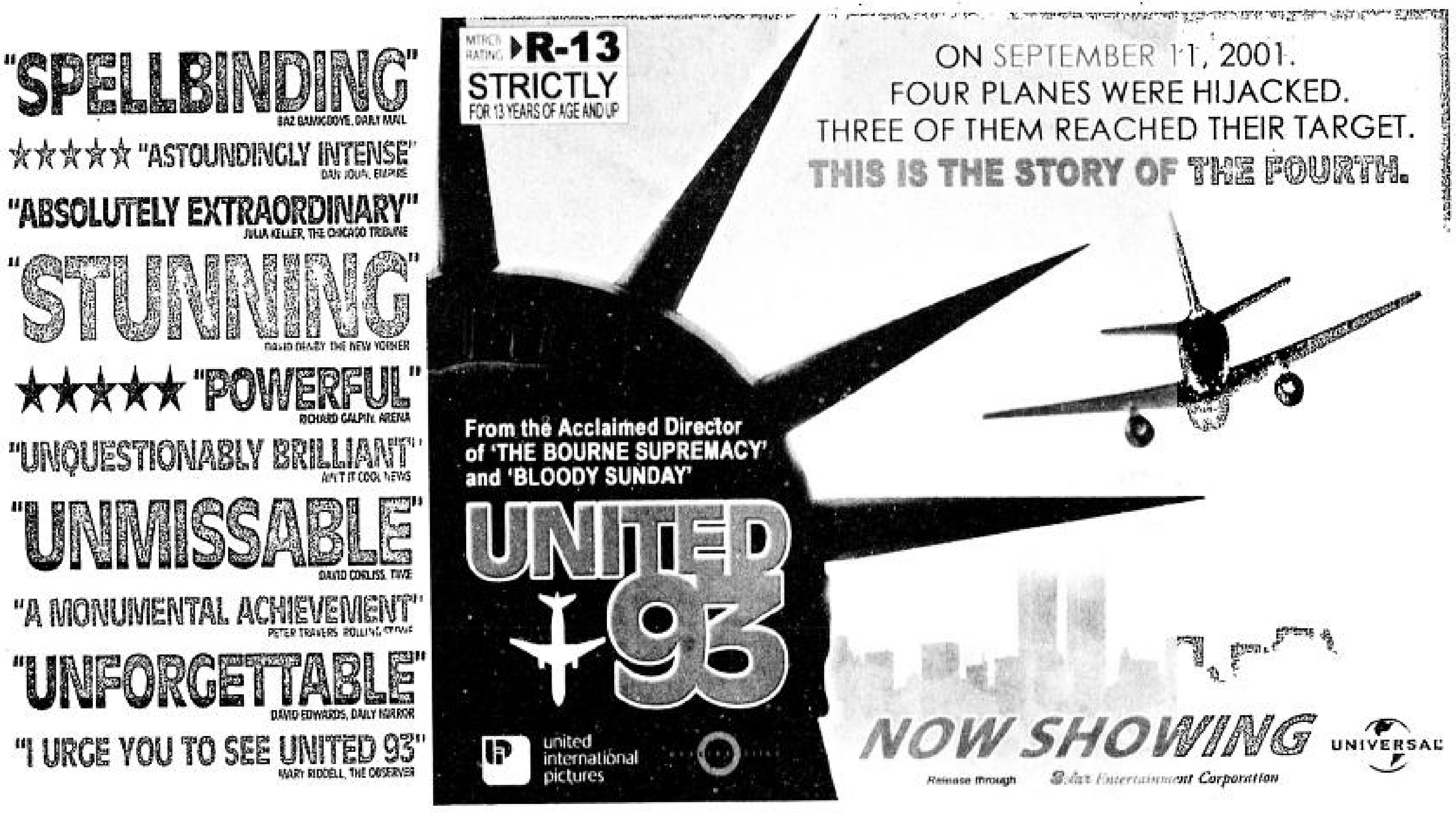
July 12, Wed. PBA PHILIPPINE CUP FINALS 7:10 pm PUREFOODS vs RED BULL	MVP CUP 2 - ASIA vs EUROPE July 14 - 16, Fri - Sun, 4 pm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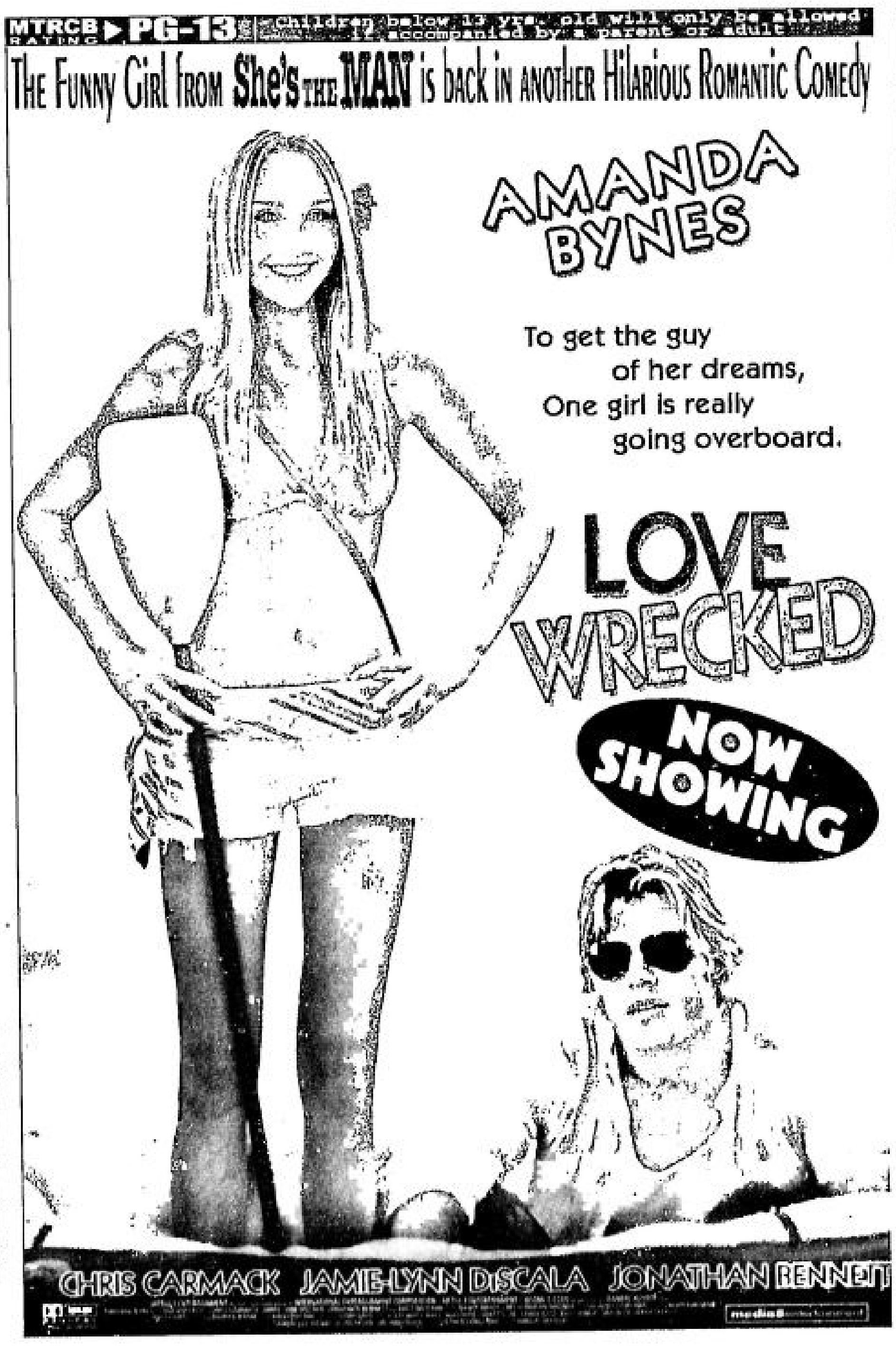
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Anne Hathaway wears Prada, but loves Chanel

ANNE Hathaway in "The Devil Wears Prada"

ANNE HATHAWAY is camera-shy. Ask to take her photo and she'll cover her face with her hands. But get her on a movie set and she transforms into a confident creature.

In "The Devil Wears Prada" Anne plays Andy Sachs, a wannabe journalist whose working-class fashion sense is upended along with her modest career aspirations when she lands a job as second assistant to fashion magazine editor Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep). The story is loosely based on Lauren Weisberger's novel about her experiences as personal assistant to Vogue editor Anna Wintour.

TAKE FIVE

You said something about "The Devil Wears Prada" had terrified you?

I just worked with Meryl Streep, the best actress in the world. There was always the fear that she knows how to do it [and] I'll never get there. But she was very generous. None of my old rules applied, but she was very generous.

What is it about Meryl Streep's approach to acting that you admire?

She's always in the center of her character. She doesn't get distracted.

You looked very different in "Brokeback Mountain."

"Brokeback" was a period piece, and I liked what I did on that film. Ang Lee—I think he's pretty special, too—had my hair be the timeline of the story. ["Devil"] was easier to get make-up on every day.

Did you have to lose or gain weight to do this?

They actually asked me to gain. I'd just recovered from surgery so I couldn't eat anything and I'd lost all this weight. I really worked at it and I put on 10 pounds with pizza, beer and ice cream. Then I got to my first costume fitting and Pat Fields goes, "Not going to work. You need to be 120." At that moment I was 130. So I lost the weight again. It took about six weeks, eating just fruit and vegetables. That's my weight loss-gain story.

What do you think about your character's fashion sense?

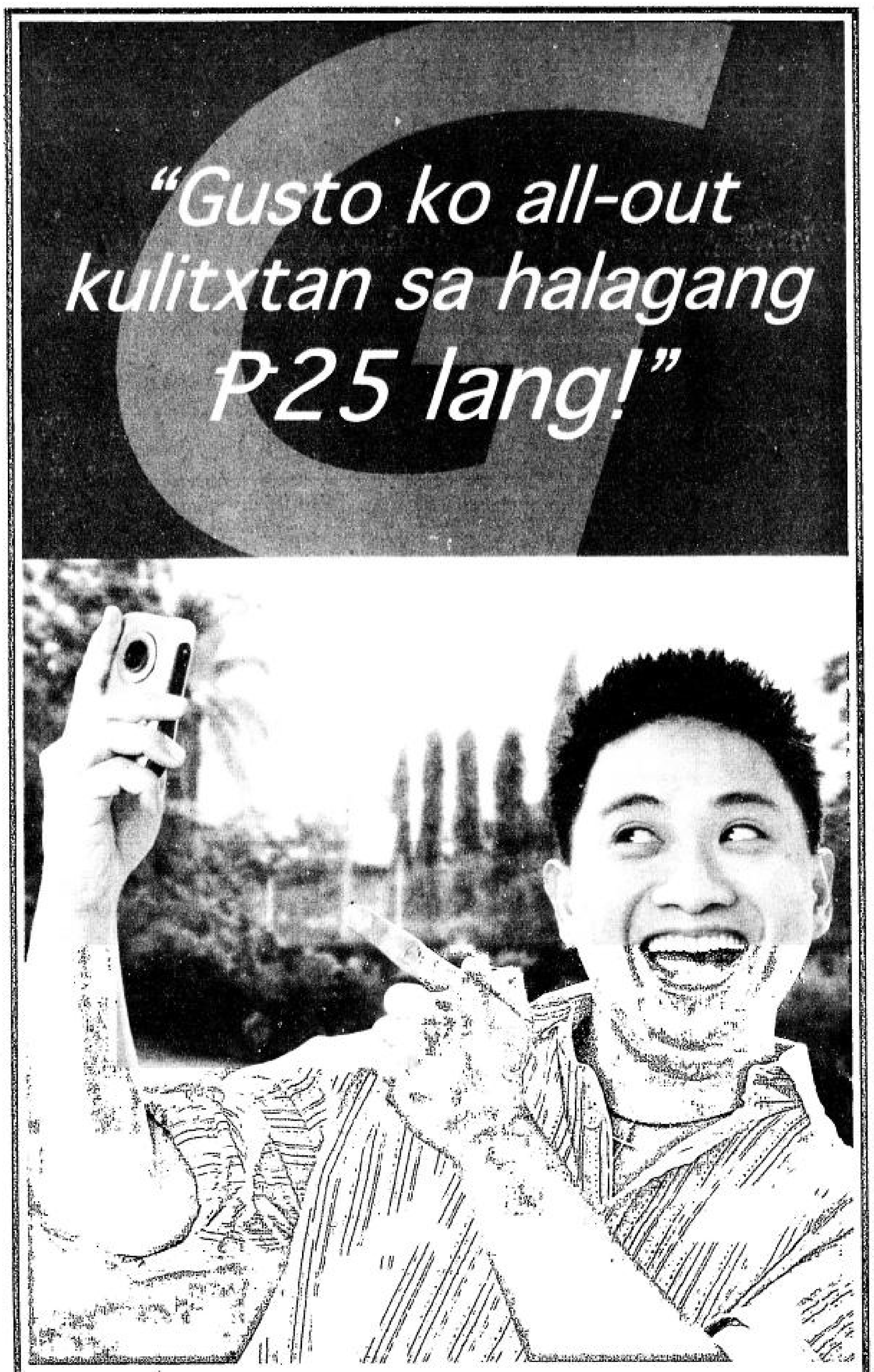
Andy is basically a girl who shops from a J. Crew catalog and... a type-A nerd—which is something I relate to—I think she would have probably gone into the fashion archives. And then right before she goes to Paris, she sees there's a personality in there, someone who does not think what she puts on her body and [therefore] someone who definitely has style.

What were the best accessories that you wore in the film?

I really loved the Chanel boots. But they were auctioned off for charity, so they served a much better purpose than they would have just be sitting in my closet.

So are you anything like a "brand" person?

I don't flip [for] a brand, but something that's rather out of control is my love of Chanel. I look at a dress and say, "Wow, I really like that." Then I find out it's a Chanel. I'm so at the mercy of that brand.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WWE Superstar KANE is the new name in TERROR "SEE NO EVIL"

Kane plays the Henchman from Hell Jacob Goodnight. With a rusty steel plate screwed into his skull and razor-sharp fingernails that pluck out his victim's eyes, Jacob is a reclusive psychopath holed up in the long-abandoned and rotting Blackwell Hotel. Eight juvenile delinquents then show up at the run-down hotel for community service duty along with the cop who put a bullet in Jacob's head for four years ago. Jacob hunts them down using a meat hook and chain through a maze of broken-down hallways and rooms. When one of their own is kidnapped by Jacob and her fate uncertain, the remaining delinquents must fight this indestructible force of nature with a violent score to settle.

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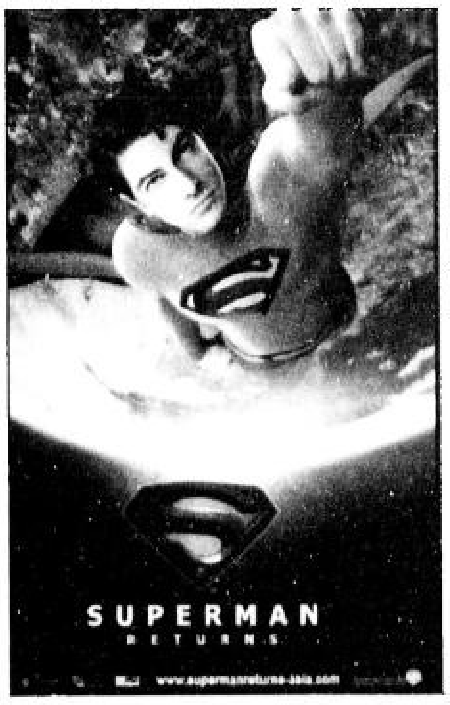

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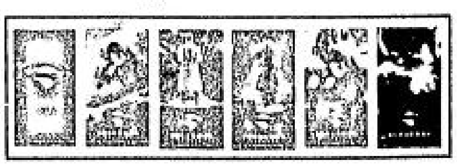

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Gov't eyes lifting of rice import quota

FILE PHOTO shows Filipino dock workers unload bags of rice imported from Vietnam at Manila's south harbor. REUTERS

Globe unit may include Smart in promo

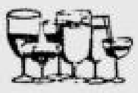
By Daxim L. Lucas

INNOVE COMMUNICATIONS INC., A SUBsidiary of Globe Telecom Inc., is willing to allow subscribers of its bundled landline and Internet service promo to send text messages from Globelines phones to mobile units of Smart Communications Inc., the company said.

In a telephone interview, Innove president Gil Genio disputed Smart's accusations that the firm was engaged in its own version of predato-

GLOBE/ B5

IN THIS ISSUE



- **Chavit shifts** to movies /B3
- **Bangko Sentral** to scale down inflation forecast /B7

Seeks to ensure steady supply during lean months

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO LIFT THE QUOTA RESTRICTION on rice imports by the private sector during the lean months of domestic production to help ensure steady supply.

The import quota was imposed to protect local farmers against the possible flooding in the market of cheap rice. For the whole of 2006, the quota for private-sector importation of rice was set at 350,000 metric tons. These imports are also slapped a 50-percent duty.

In a recent Cabinet meeting, however, some economic officials discussed a proposal to lift the quantitative restriction during the months of May, June and July to coincide with the planting season.

According to the minutes of the Cabinet meeting, the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs, its attached agency, were tasked to study the proposal for possible implementation. If implemented, the BOC will be tasked to inform its personnel in charge with monitoring imports on the lifting of the quantitative restriction.

But the lifting of the quantitative restriction is not intended to be permanent as economic officials expect a robust performance of the local agriculture industry.

Agriculture as a whole was expected to have grown year-on-year by about 5 percent

GOV'T/ B6

RISING INTEREST RATES

Investors seen coming back

By Doris C. Dumlao

YIELDS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT PAper are adjusting to levels more palatable to offshore investors, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

As opposed to an earlier assessment that local interest rates were too low and did not help in attracting portfolio investors given rising interest rates in the United States, local government securities now enjoy positive interest rate differentials.

"It looks like the interest rate differentials are improving in favor of the Philippines. The benefits could be shown in terms of volume of transactions in the year and the amount of portfolio investments going into government securities or even bank deposits," said a high-ranking BSP official.

Net of taxes, the differential between the Philippines' 91-day treasury bills and the 90-day US treasuries had improved from -86.7 basis points as of June 19 to a positive 25 ba-

INVESTORS/ B5

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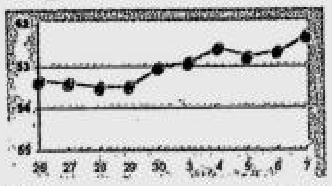

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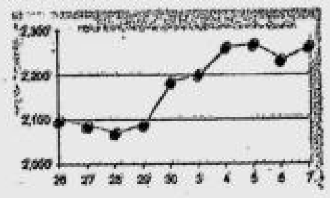

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Cautious trading seen

LOCAL INVESTORS ARE EXPECTED TO REmain cautious this week on jitters triggered by North Korea's missile test launch.

"Jitters from geo-political issues and persistent inflationary concerns will keep investors on the defensive. We have had a nice technical rebound after the market tumbled from its year high. However, volumes have

CAUTIOUS/ B4

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Our agriculture treadmill

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Cielito F. Habito

FARMERS AND FISHERS, AGRICULTURE BUreaucrats, academics, NGOs and agribusiness practitioners came together last week in the National Agricultural Policy Summit, a gathering that had been planned over a year ago but delayed by the change in leadership in the Department of Agriculture (DA) last year.

President Fidel V. Ramos made good use of such multi-sectoral summits in the 1990s to seek policy consensus. Much of the productive economic reforms of that decade were the product of such "summitry," whereby crucial policy issues were opened to wide public discussion by concerned stakeholders of opposing persuasions. The underlying rationale is that the wider the ownership (and therefore support) for policy reforms, the more durable those reforms will be.

Durable problems

The case of Philippine agriculture has been somewhat of an oddity in this regard. In this sector, what have been durable are the problems, not the solutions. After decades of multi-sectoral consultations and policy deliberations, and to some extent actual reforms, the problems of the sector remain the same. Some old-timers remarked to me in the summit sidelines that we're still talking of the same problems and solutions that we did in the 1960s.

I could see what they meant. It was my task in last week's summit to recap the results of more than a year of consultations for the sector undertaken by the Economic Policy Reform and Advocacy (Epra) project, run by a consortium composed of the Ateneo de Manila University and six national NGOs with support from USAID. Epra's aim is to widen participation in the economic policy reform process to ensure sound policies that promote the greatest good for the greatest number.

Glaring anomaly

Indeed, the list of issues in the farm and fisheries sector that emerged from those nationwide consultations trace back to the era of the current president's father, four decades ago. Low productivity (which statistics show to have worsened, not improved, through those decades), low farm incomes, poor access to farm credit, inadequate farm infrastructure, high post-harvest losses, monopolies and monopsonies in trading, and expensive inputs were pressing problems then as they continue to be now.

How could we have let down the sector that provides livelihood, directly or indirectly, to an estimated two-thirds of all Filipinos through all those years?

Quite clearly, there has been a failure of governance on a massive scale in Philippine agriculture. Overseen by a government department with one of the biggest budgets in the Philippine bureaucracy, the fact that the bulk of the stakeholders in the sector remain the poorest in our society seems a glaring anomaly.

Easy prey

And anomaly it is. What else do you call a massive program that purportedly allocated hundreds of millions of pesos to provide fertilizers for small farmers, but has been determined by the Commission on Audit to have been widely diverted to the wrong purpose and to the wrong pockets? And yet the only public officials who have been penalized are those suspected of having "spilled the beans"?

The odious fertilizer scam is but one among countless examples of how powerful interests have made the Department of Agriculture their playground and milking cow. The department's large budget makes it easy prey for an immoral few who would put aside the welfare of tens of millions of Filipinos to support their own narrow political ends.

It's governance, stupid!

Perhaps what was different about last week's summit was the wide recognition among the participants that no well-meaning policies could work for agriculture unless governance of the sector is first put in order. The dominance of the agriculture bureaucracy—which subsumes the fisheries sector, itself a massive sector that could very well be overseen by a department of its own--may be its own downfall. There is now wide support for the notion that local governments must play the stronger role in managing agriculture in their respective areas—that they must do the "rowing," while the DA confines itself to "steering." The latter includes technical guidance and capacity building for LGUs, setting and enforcement of appropriate regulatory standards, and coordination of research and development—but not directly running projects on the ground, something LGUs are much better placed to do. That way we should be able to avoid the mas-

NO FREE LUNCH/ B4

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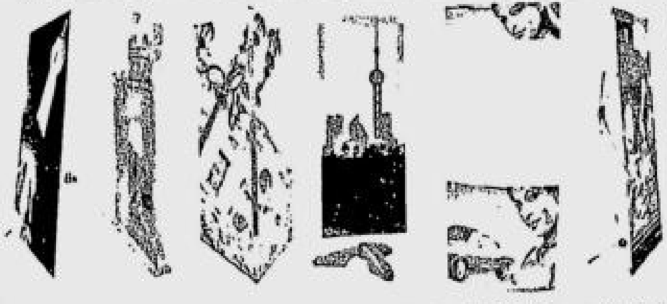

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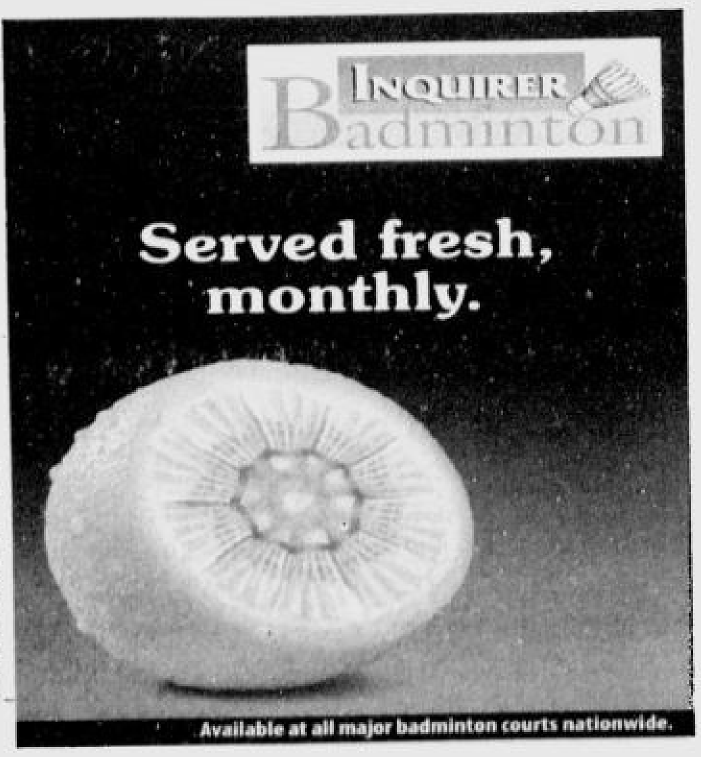

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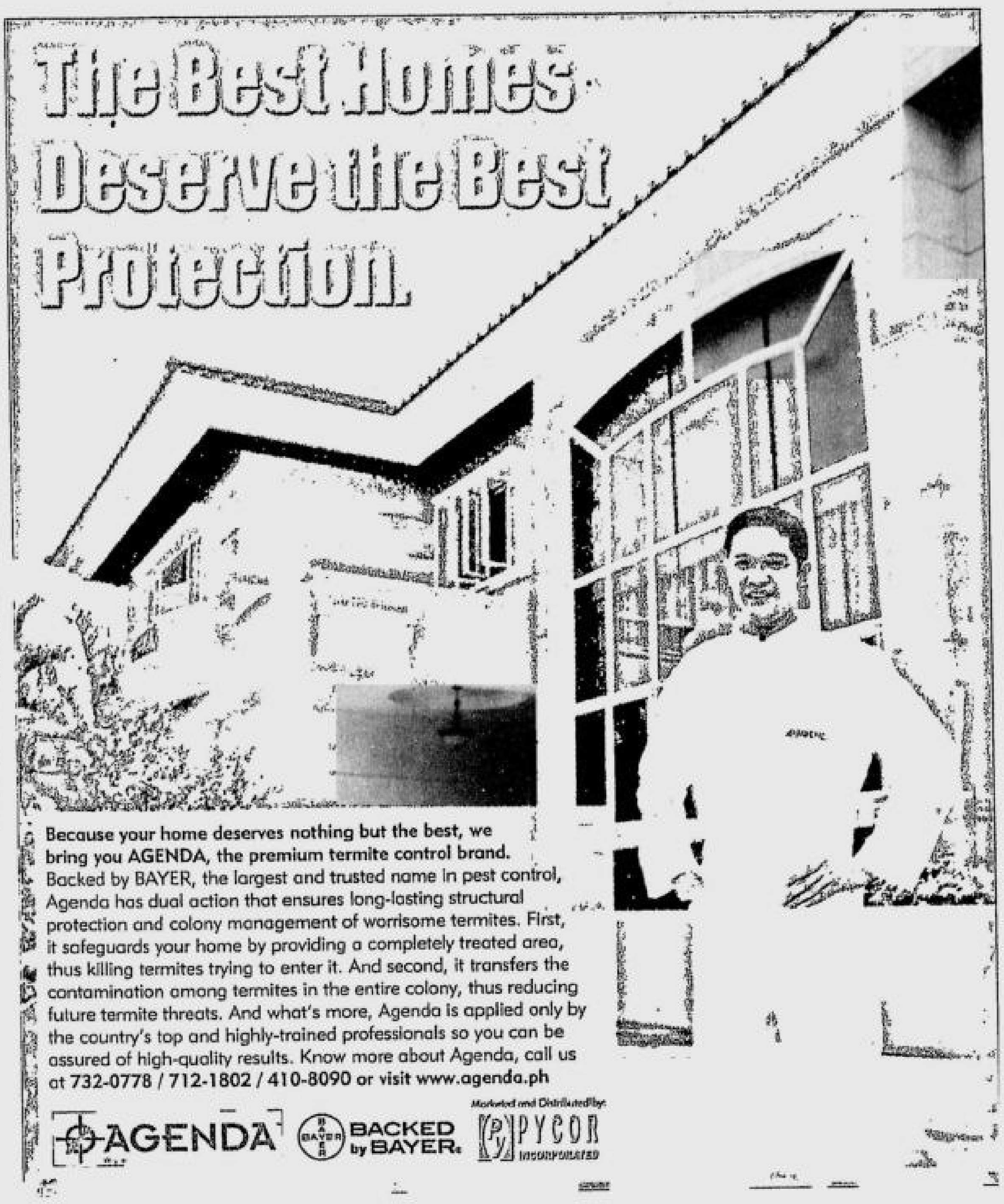
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Business can be simple

NTC tells Bayantel: Use or lose mobile network license

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) has given Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (Bayantel) the benefit of the doubt as to the latter's plan to set up a mobile phone service, asking the Lopez-owned firm to submit its plans to regulators.

According to NTC Commissioner Ronald O. Solis, Bayantel's failure to comply with the directive would leave regulators no choice but to give the company's mobile phone license to another applicant.

"We told them to submit a technical report plan based on GSM (global system for mobile communications) technology in 10 days," Solis said.

He said Bayantel only has one year to roll out its cellular network under the provisional agreement with the NTC.

Solis' order for Bayantel to produce a GSM technical plan effectively rejected the company's request for regulators to grant it a CDMA (code division multiple access) technology license, which it claimed it would use for its foray into third-generation (3G) network services.

It means Bayantel will have to contend with a GSM frequency, although skepticism runs high among regulators if the cash-strapped firm can make use of even this technology, which is the basis of the bulk of existing "2G" mobile phone networks.

The NTC chief pointed out that Bayantel's unused frequencies were "very much sought after" by other firms wanting to enter the lucrative and highly competitive telecommunications industry.

Last month, Bayantel asked regulators to extend its cellular mobile telephone service (CMTS) permit, signaling that it continues to aspire to enter the mobile phone business.

Bayantel wants NTC to grant it another extension of its provisional authority for a CMTS license until 2008.

Earlier, an NTC technical review had already recommended against such an extension in an internal memo circulated earlier this year.

According to the technical committee's review, Bayantel's CMTS network plan was originally going to be based on GSM technology but has since been modified to a CDMA system.

"How can we act on their extension if what they submitted to us is a technical plan based on CDMA technology?" Solis said. "We will reallocate their frequency if they will not use it."

Still deep in debt, Bayantel has yet to get out of the red. Its parent firm, Benpres Holdings Corp., has been actively looking for a buyer for Bayantel.

The company was counting on a 3G license from the NTC last year for it to be able to leapfrog its competitors, but was edged out by upstart Connectivity Unlimited Resource Enterprises (Cure) owned by former Trade Minister Roberto V. Ongpin.

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MANILA POLO CLUB	3.1M	MIMOSA C-3	580K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	600K	ORCHARD A	160K
MANILA YACHT CLUB	350K	ORCHARD C	330K
MIMOSA IND	200K	ROCKWELL CLUB IND	220K
ORCHARD B	350K	SHERWOOD HILLS B	80K
PUNTA FUEGO	400K	SPA & LODGE	450K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	150K	STA. ELENA A	PLS. CALL
ROCKWELL CLUB CORP	400K	STA. ELENA B	PLS. CALL
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	70K	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB	90K
ROYALE TAGAYTAY CORP	150K	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	PLS. CALL
TOWER CLUB C	300K	VALLEY GOLF	190K
WACK WACK	6.5M	WACK WACK	6.2M

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ALABANG "B"	Call now	PALMS CC	500K	ALABANG "B"	1.135M
BAGUIO CC	Call now	RIVIERA GCC "A"	165K	BAGUIO CC	500K
CELEB SPORTS	150K	ROCKWELL	380K	C JOHN HAY	220K
CC @ TAG	340K	SPA & LODGE	450K	CANLUBANG	430K
FOREST HILLS A	200K	SUBICBAYYACHT	120K	MLA POLO	2.75M
MAKATISPORTS "B"	180K	S WOODS "A"	400K	PUNTA FUEGO	400K
MANILA POLO	Call now	TAG H'LANDS	700K	VALLEY GOLF	180K
MLA YACHT INDV	290K	TAG MIDLANDS	680K	WACK WACK	6M

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ALABANG CC A	Call Now	STA ELENA	50,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	10,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
CANLUBANG	50,000	TAG MIDLANDS (LESSEE)	20,000
RIVIERA CC	10,000	WACK WACK	[illegible]

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Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Valuation Date 07/06/2006	Valuation Date 06/30/2006
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PELAC Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.0626	US$ 1.0570

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker # 00131 • As of July 10, 2006

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,075,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,150,000	1,020,000
Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	550,000	500,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	250,000	220,000
Canlubang	500,000	400,000
Capitol Hills	55,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,400,000
Celebrity Sports Club	100,000	-
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eaglerdige "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	150,000
Forest Hills "C"	180,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	-
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	330,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	220,000	200,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	200,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	400,000	320,000
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	-
Rockwell Club	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	550,000	450,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Please Call	625,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	90,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	150,000
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,200,000

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G & W clubshares
As of July 10, 2006
SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,150,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	540,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	280,000	200,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	60,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	120,000	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	320,000*/Pls. Call	Pls. Call*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	150,000/170,000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	180,000	160,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	300,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	150,000	110,000
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/500,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	200,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	180,000/Pls. Call*/400,000**	150,000/350,000**
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/190,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,150,000	1,100,000/1,550,000*
Subic Golf	190,000	-
The Palms Country Club	420,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	500,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	600,000
The Country Club	3,000,000	-
Tower Club	150,000	-
Valley Golf	220,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	190,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200,000

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Cautious . . .

From page B1

been thin, indicating that investors are still concerned," AB Capital Securities said in a weekly report.

AB Capital Securities said stocks were expected to trade within a narrower range this week with the benchmark index's support level at 2,200.

Online broker 2TradeAsia.com said fund managers worldwide were also anxious over a possible disruption from Iran, the world's fourth biggest exporter of oil, over its brewing tiff with the United States regarding its nuclear program.

"Fund managers were beginning to get a glimpse of another volatile geopolitical terrain. While such situation created grey clouds to investors overriding sentiment in equities, preference could apparently skew in favor of speculative stocks, specifically those that would benefit most from world market pricing volatility such as metals and commodities," 2TradeAsia said.

2TradeAsia also said that investor appetite could tilt temporarily in favor of alternative markets such as bonds, foreign exchange or metals depending on the state of regional politics.

Despite these worries, analysts observed that the market was off to a good start in the third quarter as share prices closed 3.2 percent higher from last week. AB Capital Securities noted that the key PSEi managed to gain more than 70 points from the previous week, closing near its week high of 2,264 on positive economic news.

Companies were also encouraged by the fall in the benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield by 426 basis points last week to 6.07 percent. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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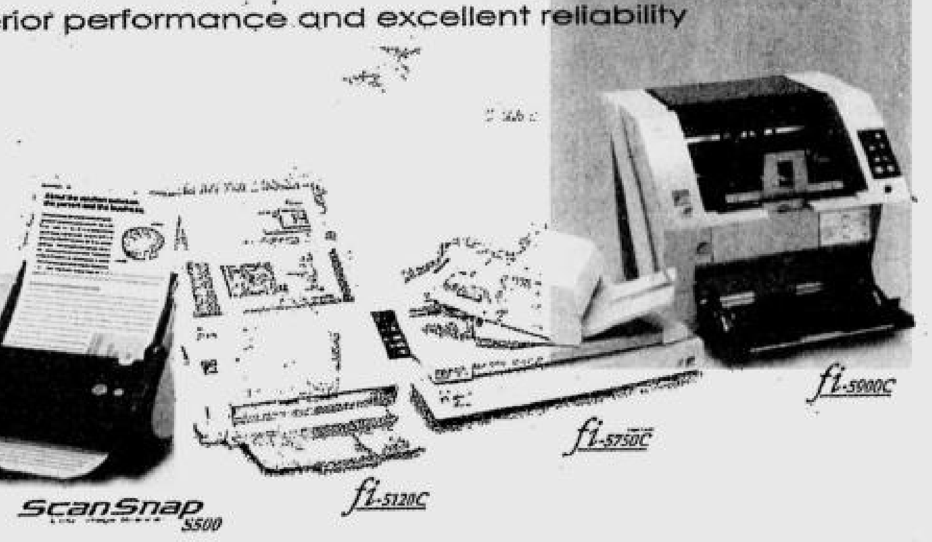

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 7, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	6	5.7	5.7	50,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	273,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	51.5	50.5	51	2,026,200
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	74.5	74.5	74	74	600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36	35.5	35.5	264,800
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	2,400
Phil. Savings Bank	38.5	39	38.5	39	4,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18.5	19.25	18.5	19.25	178,900
Security Bank Corp.	47	47.5	47	47	45,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	45	44	45	7,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp	31	31	31	31	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1640	1660	1640	1660	390
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	0.99	0.99	120,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	22,700
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	110
Ivantage Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.24	831,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43.5	43	43.5	571,700
First Phil Hldgs Corp	45	46	45	45.5	1,538,000
Manila Electric Co. "A"	14.75	15.25	14.75	15.25	60,300
Manila Electric Co. "B"	22.5	23.5	22.5	23.25	2,988,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	1,442,000
Petron Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	3.95	3,135,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.95	2,390,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	7,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	62,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	5	5	5	5	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23.5	23	23.25	506,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32.5	32	32.5	812,400
Pancake House Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	900,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.15	3	3.1	925,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	64.5	65.5	64.5	65.5	88,400
San Miguel Corp. "B"	71	71.5	71	71	291,800
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10	10	164,700
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.5	18	18.5	785,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	890,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	600,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.56	3,177,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.26	1.26	67,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	75,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	216,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	30,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0925	0.0975	0.09	.097	41,600,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	126,000,000
Ayala Corp.	382.5	405	382.5	402.5	306,790
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.4	357,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.76	1,266,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	14,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	470,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	14,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.1	25,590,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.9	3.85	3.9	287,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	14,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6	6.1	6	6.1	217,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
Prime Orion Phils., Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	270,000
Solid Group Inc	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,700,000
SM Investments Corp.	214	215	213	214	197,380
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.08	0.08	700,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12.25	12	12	6,281,500
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,877,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	580,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.98	2.2	1.96	2.1	18,041,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.56	8,610,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	1,324,000
Gotesco Land Inc	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	890,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.44	0.45	0.41	0.42	860,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	10,870,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	6,650,000
Primex Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	17,900
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,480,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	353,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.5	17	16.5	16.75	179,700
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	30,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	1,262,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	945	960	945	960	52,060
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.55	1,862,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1935	1975	1935	1960	135,560
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.185	0.185	1,020,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	150,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	7,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.2	1,000
Philweb Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	10,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	300,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.75	14.5	13.75	14.5	1,891,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.32	1,070,000
Premiere Ent. Prod., Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.25	950,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	60,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	120,000
Paxys Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	225,000
Prime Gaming Phils., Inc.	35	35	35	35	8,100
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.2	7.9	8	1,327,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. "A"	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	13,540,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co "B"	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	7,750,000
Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	129,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	166,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. "A"	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2	6,817,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	4.4	4.4	4.15	4.25	10,527,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	350,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.55	350,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	820,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	14,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. "A"	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.28	1,592,000
The Philodrill Corp. "B"	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	558,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	61,700
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT REC					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.75	17.25	16.75	17	786,300

CURRENCIES

July 10, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.782595	1.000000	52.8210
Japan	Yen	0.006798	0.008687	0.4589
United Kingdom	Pound	1.436845	1.836000	96.9794
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100712	0.128690	6.7975
Switzerland	Franc	0.637085	0.814067	42.9998
Canada	Dollar	0.703710	0.899200	47.4966
Singapore	Dollar	0.494843	0.632311	33.3993
Australia	Dollar	0.584288	0.746603	39.4363
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.075959	2.652661	140.1162
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208681	0.266652	14.0848
Brunei	Dollar	0.493284	0.630318	33.2940
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020513	0.026212	1.3845
UAE	Dirham	0.213072	0.272264	14.3813
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.277800	67.4947
Argentina	Peso	0.253677	0.324149	17.1219
Brazil	Real	0.358824	0.458505	24.2187
Denmark	Kroner	0.134059	0.171300	9.0482
India	Rupee	0.017017	0.021744	1.1485
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213562	0.272889	14.4143
Mexico	New Peso	0.070926	0.090629	4.7871
New Zealand	Dollar	0.473926	0.605583	31.9875
Norway	Kroner	0.125666	0.160576	8.4818
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012990	0.016598	0.8767
South Africa	Rand	0.109347	0.139723	7.3803
Korea	Won	0.000824	0.001053	0.0556
Sweden	Kroner	0.109147	0.139468	7.3668
Syria	Pound	0.015076	0.019264	1.0175
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024120	0.030821	1.6280
Vanezuela	Bolivar	0.000365	0.000466	0.0246

No Free Lunch

From page B2

sive fund diversions that we have witnessed in the department's budget.

Among all government departments, it has also been documented that DA has had the most frequent changes in leadership through the years, and especially under the current leadership (four in the last five years!)—clear reflection of the politicization of this extremely critical agency. For the sake of millions of poor Filipinos, politics must give way to professionalism in this sector. Such professional leadership is currently in place. But rumors are rife that certain interests aiming to collect on political debts are out to turn the revolving door at DA yet another time. Will we ever learn?

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Chavit shifts to movies

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

LUIS "CHAVIT" SINGSON HAS APparently been bitten by the movie bug ever since he underwrote the recent blockbuster production chronicling his colorful life.

According to the grapevine, the Ilocos Sur governor has revived his mother's movie production company, Northern Star, and is now filming a horror movie in the province for its first offering.

The movie is apparently being rushed into the market, since, despite typhoon Signal No. 1 being up on Friday, Chavit and the production crew still flew to Vigan from Manila.

This time, the governor is content on bankrolling the movie, instead of starring in it, to the relief of the director, who has heard of the juggling act that director Carlo Caparas had to perform with the Chavit blockbuster.

Makati Med as the patient

THE PLANNED P300-million equity infusion of PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan into the floundering Makati Medical Center now dims, given the continuing strong opposition of PLDT's Japanese partner NTT in the planned venture.

NTT is apparently objecting to the planned medical foray because it is outside the core competence of the telecom company.

According to the pro-MVP grapevine, Makati Med needs a lot more than P300 million to turn around what used to be the country's premiere hospital.

In addition to the capital infusion, the hospital apparently needs a new management team and operating philosophy given the strong inroads into the A and B markets already made by the Asian Hospital, St. Luke's and the Medical Center.

P500-trap

THE PASAY Road traffic traps at the corners of Amorsolo and Paseo de Roxas were missing Saturday, although it is not clear whether their absence was caused by the rains or by some official intervention.

Their absence came about after Bel-Air barangay chair Constancia Lichauco clarified that the said areas, contrary to the impression made in this space Friday, were under the jurisdiction of Barangay San Lorenzo.

Teams of San Lorenzo "police" had been apprehending weekend motorists who made left-turns on Pasay Road to the said side roads.

The trap is that the left-turn arrow, after a brief green, goes dead instead of red, while the main light stays green.

With the green light and no oncoming traffic, like the other Saturday when the streets were deserted because of the Pacquiao-Larios fight, motorists are lured into the P500-trap, plus confiscation of the driver's license.

Money-go-round

- IN addition to relaunching daily flights to Singapore, Cebu Pacific is also working to start at least thrice-a-week Manila-Shanghai flights in October.
- DIGITEL has quietly launched a wireless landline service in Metro Manila which offers unlimited landline-to-landline calls within the metropolis for P600 a month. The wireless landline can be transported and used within a five-kilometer range from a Digitel antenna.

Heard through the grapevine

THE KAREN Santos of Kashieca boutique fame wishes to clarify that she is not the new golf buddy of Mike Arroyo who was referred to in this space Friday.

The identity mix-up came about after the unidentified female golfer apparently used the pseudonym—the other cover name was "Beth Salazar"—when she played a few times with the First Gentleman at The Country Club.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@ya hoo.com)

Investors seen . . .

From page B1

sis points before easing back to -12.02 as of July 4.

The differential between 181-day treasury bills and comparative US treasuries has likewise improved from -94.28 as of June 19 to a positive 23 basis points, declining to only -12.08 as of July 4.

Part of the reason why there was a blip on July 4 was because of the holiday break in the United States, aided by expectations of a pause in the monetary tightening of the US Federal Reserve.

"If the investors are comfortable with the emerging interest rate differentials, then that would show in terms of volume of transactions particularly in the government securities market," the official said.

"This is especially if you put in the peso's appreciation. It's fractional but it's still an appreciation from the beginning of the year. No matter how small, it will give you a substantial interest rate differential," the official added.

The peso has swung back to being a net gainer against the dollar so far this year, moving 1.4 percent higher to close at 52.35 on Friday as against 53.09:$1 at end-2005.

Globe unit . . .

From page B1

ry pricing, which Globe is accusing Smart of in a separate case.

"The principle of predatory pricing is well established in law, and that assumes that the party doing it is the dominant player," he said. "Obviously, we are not the dominant player."

Globe Telecom is the second-biggest telecommunications firm in the country, after Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (the parent firm of Smart).

Genio's comments came after Smart filed a complaint with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) alleging that Innove was engaged in predatory pricing.

The complaint stemmed from Innove's Speak n' Surf promo, a bundled landline and Internet service that, among others, allows subscribers to send 500 free text messages from their Globelines phones to any mobile unit of Globe or its down-market Touch Mobile service.

Apart from the fact that the service allegedly takes advantage of the corporate links between Globe and Touch Mobile—two separate companies—Smart also complained that it was being offered "below cost."

Smart's complaint with the NTC stung Globe, coming on the heels of Globe's own complaint of "discriminatory pricing" against its larger rival's own unlimited texting promo.

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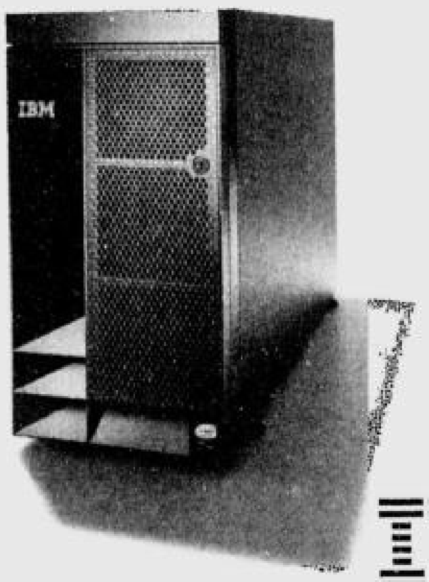

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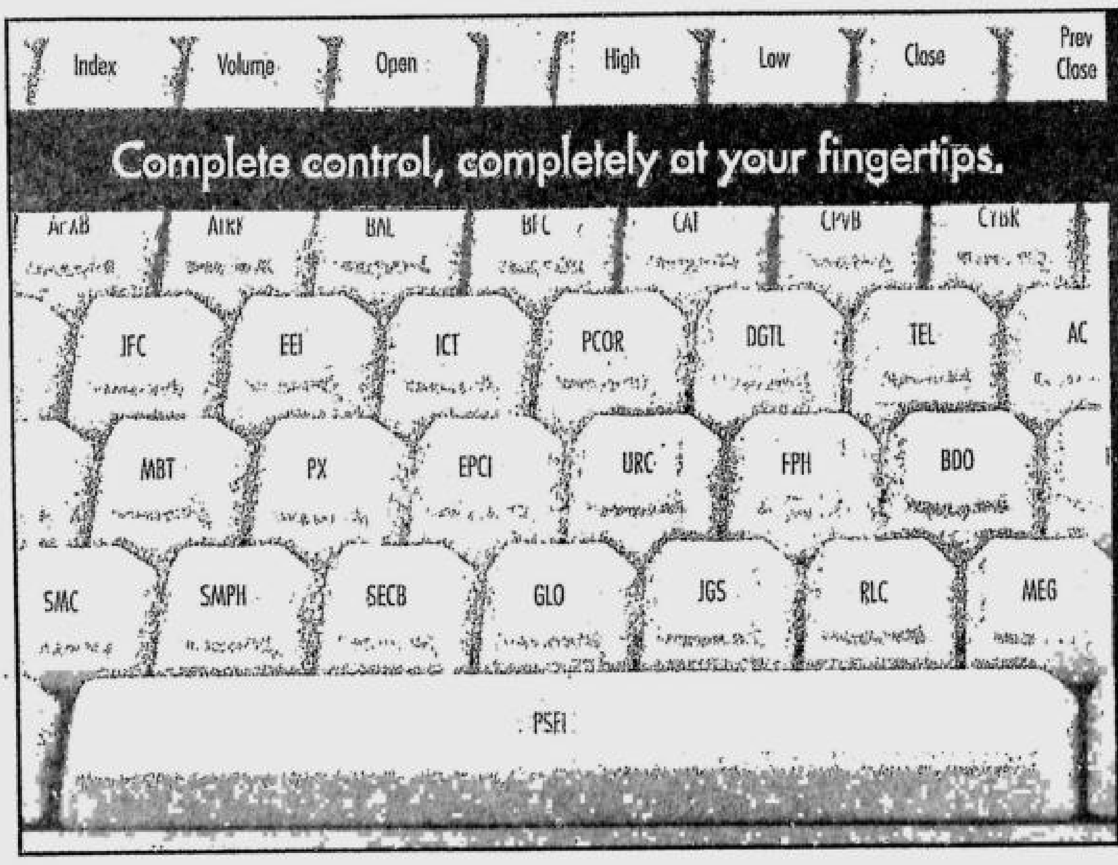

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GREENRIDGE SUBDIVISION
Brgy. Bilibiran, Binangonan, Rizal
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
61 sqm.	P 124,165
57 sqm.	116,023
64 sqm.	130,272
56 sqm.	113,988
54 sqm.	109,917

VISTA VERDE NORTH
Kaybiga
Caloocan City
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
164 sqm.	P 446,080
266 sqm.	723,520
198 sqm.	538,560
144 sqm.	391,680
244 sqm.	663,680

GOTESCO REGENCY TWIN TOWERS
Concepcion St., Manila
(near SM City Manila)
25 STRY RSD'L CONDO

Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
94.8 sqm.	P6,623,200
194.8 sqm.	7,792,000
197.28 sqm.	7,891,200
372.78 sqm.	12,674,52

PALANAN Capitol District,
Quezon City
(near Loyola Grand Villas)
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
5,000 sqm.	P3,322,123
5,577 sqm.	3,705,496
5,600 sqm.	3,711,476

PALLAS ATHENA EXEC.
Imus, Cavite
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
150 sqm.	P355,590
300 sqm.	711,180
647 sqm.	1,533,778

RODEO HILLS SUBDIVISION
Mega Tagaytay
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
360 sqm.	P 229,500
333 sqm.	283,050
375 sqm.	351,900
480 sqm.	1,020,000

FARLANDVILLE SUBDIVISION
Toril, Davao
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
230 sqm	P 87,975
241 sqm	92,182.50
372 sqm	142,290
263 sqm	100,597.50
325 sqm	124,312.50

ANGONO, RIZAL

SPR_ANG088 RSDL LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
Angono Diversion Rd.
Bo. SAN ROQUE
Min. Bid Price: P 445,000

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

SPR_ANT069 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 531.5 sqm. F.A 600 sqm.
PALOS VERDES SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,807,100

SPRW_RZL001 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm
Royale Ave., VERMONT ROYALE SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,702,550

SPRW_RZL002 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 176 sqm.
Diamond St., Pines City
ROYAL SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 588,739.72

SPRW_RZL003 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 323 sqm
Mangold St., LORES SUBD.,
Brgy. Balimbing
Min. Bid Price: P 1,015,750

SPRW_RZL004 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 248 sqm
Montville Ext. VISTA VERDE
Min. Bid Price: P 737,800

SPRW_RZL005 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 158 sqm.
Panorama Drive & Mt. Rainer St.
PANORAMA HILLS, Cupang
Min. Bid Price: P 280,800

SPRW_RZL006 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 347 sqm.
Sto. Niño St., cor Ascension St.
MILAGROS SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 617,660

BINANGONAN, RIZAL

SPR_BGN071 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,933 sqm. F.A. 800 sqm.
SAN CARLOS HEIGHTS
Min. Bid Price: P3,363,420

SPR_BGN072 RSDL LOT
L.A. 827 sqm.
Bilibiran, MONTE VILLE SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,757,800

CAINTA, RIZAL

SPR_CNT073 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 60 sqm. F.A. 56 sqm.
NORTHAMPTON ST.,
BROOKESIDE HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 575,733

SPR_CNT074 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,086 sqm
Columbia St.
BROOKESIDE HILLS SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,395,300

SPRW_RZL007 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm.
Ilang-Ilang St., St. DOMINIC SUBD
Min. Bid Price. P 843,731.25

CALOOCAN

SPR_CAL080 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 242 sqm.
Mangold St., BF HOMES
Brgy. Deparo
Min. Bid Price: P 617,100

SPR_CAL081 OFFICE UNIT
F.A. 69.90 sqm.
A.Del Mundo cor. GRACEPARK
Min. Bid Price: P 1,827,030

SPR_CAL082 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 509 sqm. F.A. 820 sqm.
Glascon St. cor. Munich St.,
VISTA VERDE
Min. Bid Price : P 5,850,000

SPR_CAL083 RSDL LOT
L.A. 146 sqm.
Aquino St. MARULAS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,273,448

SPR_CAL085 RSDL LOT
L.A. 197 sqm.
Munich St. VISTA VERDE NORTH
EXEC. VILL.
Min. Bid Price: P 565,500

SPR_CAL086 2 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,500 sqm./ 178 sqm.
EVERGREEN EXEC. VILL.,
Deparo, Bagumbong
Min. Bid Price: P 2,470,000

SPRW_CAL008 RSDL LOT
L.A. 240 sqm
DEPARO
Min. Bid Price: P510,000

SPRW_CAL009 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 249 sqm.
Golden Clarion St.,
LILLES VILLE. Camarin
Min. Bid Price: P 2,639,120

LAS PIÑAS

SPR_LSP087 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 582 sqm. F.A.52 sqm.
(near MAKRO)
Ines Manapol cor. D. Jose
cor. Guado Sanches, BF RESORT
Min. Bid Price: P 6,728,947

SPR_LSP088 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 350 sqm. F.A.247.56 sqm.
(near MAKRO) TROPICAL AVE., BF
Min. Bid Price: P 4,043,450

SPR_LSP089 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 236 sqm. F.A.175 sqm.
(near SM Sucat)
Rosal St., GACHALIAN VILL.
Min. Bid. Price: P 1,614,492

SPR_LSP090 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 192 sqm. F.A. 131 sqm.
(near MAKRO)
Roco Garcia St., BF RESORT VILL.,
Talon Dos, Pamplona
Min. Bid Price. P 1,432,030

SPR_LSP091 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 260 sqm F.A.130 sqm.
Camia cor. Vilanueva St.
GATCHALIAN SUBD.
(near SM Sucat)
Min. Bid Price P 2,143,830

SPR_LSP092 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A 497 sqm. F.A. 243 sqm.
(SM Sucat)
Lozada St., GATCHALIAN SUBD.,
Manuyo
Min Bid Price: P 3,234,460

MAKATI

SPR_MKT093 OFFICE CONDO
F.A. 148 sqm.
(near Makati Cinema Square)
VERNIDA I CONDO. Amorsolo St.
Min. Bid Price: P 5,855,958

SPR_MKT094 RSD'L CONDO.
F.A. 39.92 sqm.
(near I-Bank Mkt. Ave)
SUNNETTE TOWER HOTEL,
P. Durban St.
Min. Bid. Price: P 1,298,393

SPR_MKT095 RSD'L CONDO.
F.A. 107 sqm.
(near KFC L.P Leviste)
THE PEAK CONDO, SALCEDO VILL
Min. Bid Price: P 7,518,082

SPR_MKT096 OFFICE CONDO
F.A. 45.25 sqm.
BURGUNDY TOWER, Gil Puyat,
Buendia
Min. Bid Price: P 5,278,115

SPR_MKT097 OFFICE CONDO
F.A 68.31 sqm.
BURGUNDY TOWER, Gil Puyat,
Buendia
Min. Bid Price: P 7,734,490

SPR_MKT098 RSD'L CONDO W/ PRKG
F.A. 233 sqm.
(near KFC L.P Leviste)
LPL MANOR, Alfaro St.,
Salcedo Village
Min. Bid Price: P 8,779,658

SPR_MKT099 RSD'L CONDO
F.A. 55.22 sqm.
(near Pizza Hut Mkt. Ave)
MAKATI PRIME CITADEL CONDO
P. Burgos
Min. Bid Price. P 2,560,825

SPR_MKT100 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 65.10 sqm.
MAKATI CINEMA SQUARE
TOWER, Pasong Tamo
Min. Bid Price: P 2,213,400

SPR_MKT101 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 583 sqm.
P. Burgos cor. CALDERON ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 18,822,000

SPR_MKT102 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 30 sqm.
T- TOWER CONDO
P. Burgos cor. CALDERON ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 765,000

SPRW_MKT010 INDL LOT W/ IMPVT
L.A. 295 sm.
(near Metropolitan Ave.)
Suez St., STA. CRUZ
Min. Bid Price: P 8,102,200

MANILA

SPR_MNL104 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 142.50 sqm. F.A. 200 sqm.
(near Augusto Francisco St.)
Mercurio St., SAN ANDRES BUKID
Min. Bid Price P 2,784,935

MARIKINA

SPR_MRK105 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 300 sqm.
MIDTOWN SUBD.
(across Sta. Lucia East)
Min. Bid Price: P 7,287,050

SPR_MRK106 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm. F.A 240 sqm.
(near Jollibee)
LA JOTA VILL I, Gen. Ordonez St.,
Concepcion Uno
Min. Bid Price: P 1,316,650

SPR_MRK107 RSDL / COMML LOT
L.A. 248 sqm (near China Trust)
JP Rizal St. SAN ROQUE
Min. Bid Price: P 2,232,000

SPR_MRK108 COMML LOT
L.A. 420 sqm.
AGUINALDO St., Industrial Valley
Min Bid Price P 3,910,000

MONTALBAN, RIZAL

SPR_MON077 COMML LOT
L.A. 5,314 sqm.
Sitio Adja BRGY. MANGGAHAN
Min. Bid Price: P 25,029,525

MUNTINLUPA

SPR_MUN109 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 602 sqm. F.A. 447.80 sqm.
(near Alabang Town Center)
Toledo St., ALABANG HILLS SUBD
Min. Bid Price. P 9,681,500

SPR_MUN110 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,221 sqm. F.A. 1,092 sqm.
(near Filinvest Business Park)
PLEASANT VILLAGE, Bayanan
Min Bid Price P 7,851,95

NAVOTAS

SPRW_NAV011 HOUSE & LOT/ COMML
L.A. 100 sqm
Naval St., BAGUMBAYAN SOUTH
Min. Bid Price P 1,204,450

PARANAQUE

SPR_PRQ111 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 450 sqm. F.A. 500 sqm.
(near Multinational Village)
Madrid St. MERVILLE SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 4,300,000

SPR_PRQ112 TOWNHOUSE w/ PRKG
F.A 77.65 sqm (near Lopez Vil)
WESTMONT VILL.
Dr. Santos Ave., Sucat
Min. Bid Price P 1,480,500

SPR_PRQ113 TOWNHOUSE w/ PRKG
L.A. 131.75 sqm. F.A. 118.75 sqm.
(near Lopez Village)
Unit Pe Lauan, WESTMONT VILL
Min. Bid Price: P 2,295,000

SPR_PRQ114 TOWNHOUSE
F.A. 189 sqm. (near Pacific &
Macapagal Blvd.)
Courthomes Manna, BAYHOMES
Min. Bid Price P 6,106,000

SPR_PRQ115 IND'L LOT w/ WRHSE
L.A. 6,958 sqm. F.A. 500 sqm.
(near Tahanan Village)
Lourdes st., TEOVILLE SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 31,894,550

SPRW_PRQ012 4 DOOR APMT
L.A. 488 sqm F.A. 180 sqm
Doña Irene cor Doña, Esperanza
IRENE VILLE SUBD
Min. Bid Price: P 2,118,000

PASAY

SPR_PSY116 4-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 674 sqm. F.A. 245 sqm
P. ZAMORA ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 11,092,500

PASIG

SPRW_PSG013 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm F.A. 144 sqm
Octagon Subd. Brgy. Santolan
Min. Bid Price P 1,261,400

PATEROS

SPRW_PAT014 COMML / RSDL
LOT W/ IMPVT
L.A. 2,397 sqm F.A.2,182 sqm
M. Almeda St.,
(near Commercial Concepcion &
Elasco Rd.)
Min. Bid Price P 20,100,000

QUEZON CITY

SPR_QC118 COMML / INDL LOT
L.A. 1,497 sqm.
(near Villa Village)
Quirino Highway, Brgy. Talipapa,
NOVALICHES
Min. Bid Price: P 19,461,000

SPR_QC119 2 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 45 sqm (each)
(near Ali Mall/SM/Gateway)
PRINCE GREGORY CONDO, Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,721,250

SPR_QC120 COMML / OFFICE
L.A. 900.05 sqm.
Mindanao Ave. Bago Bantay
Min. Bid Price: P 29,979,075

SPR_QC121 CONDO BLDG. W/ PRKG
L.A 3,409.36 sqm. F.A. 2,405 sqm
(along Tomas Morato St.)
HOSLA CONDOMINIUM-I
Min. Bid Price: P 82,706,718

SPR_QC122 14-STRY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 532 sqm.
CUBAO (Unfinished Bldg)
Min. Bid Price: P 28,767,918

SPR_QC123 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 200 sqm.
MIAMI ST., Cubao
(near Aurora Blvd.)
Min. Bid Price P 6,337,600

SPR_QC124 RSDL LOT
L.A. 857 sqm.
Reynaldo St. TIERRA BELLA
HOMES, Tandang Sora
Min. Bid Price. P 6,856,000

SPR_QC126 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm F.A. 714 sqm.
(near EDSA. New York Cubao)
MARYLAND ST. Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 7,395,000

SPR_QC127 2 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 600 sqm.
Catolos St. CUBAO
Min. Bid Price : P 20,040,000

SAN MATEO, RIZAL

SPR_SMT078 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 4,637 sqm
(near Shunjis Resort)
Patis Road. Brgy. MALANDAY
Min. Bid Price. P 6,122,909

SPR_SMT079 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 107 sqm.
(near Gutnang Bayan Market)
BANKERS VILL, Gutnang Bayan
Min. Bid Price: P 235,840

TAYTAY, RIZAL

SPR_TAY075 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 249 sqm.
(near Mercury Drug Store)
Diamond St., PALMERA HOMES II
Min. Bid Price: P 571,200

SPR_TAY076 HOUSE & LOT w/ WRHSE
L.A. 454 sqm. F.A. 200 sqm.
(near Petron Station)
Macopa St., DIVIDEND VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price P 1,335,000

VALENZUELA

SPR_VAL128 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,234 sqm. F.A. 800 sqm.
KOWLOON COMPOUND,
Bo. Ugong, Mapulang Lupa,
Min. Bid Price: P 10,074,600

SPRW_VAL015 RSDL LOT
L.A. 4,129 sqm (4 adjoining lots)
M. Hernandez St., MABOLO
Min. Bid Price: P 18,680,036

SPRW_VAL016 IND'L/ RSD'L LOT
L.A. 500 sqm
Malinis St., LAWANG BATO
Min. Bid Price. P 1,052,660

SPRW_VAL017 RSDL LOT
L.A. 162 sqm
Int. Apolonia St., MAPULANG LUPA
Min. bid Price P 261,440

SPRW_VAL018 RSD'L LOT w/ IMPVT
L.A. 113.40 sqm
Dela Rosa St., Home Centrum
GREEN SUBD., Mapulang Lupa
Min. Bid Price P 647,414

BAGUIO Text 09165326111

SPR_BAG001 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 177.16 sqm.
Baguio Classics Condo,
GREEN VALLEY SUBD
Min. Bid Price. P 2,710,850

SPRW_BAG019 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 350 sqm. F.A. 170 sqm.
PUCAY ROAD EXT., Sec. K
Min. Bid Price P 875,000

BATANGAS Text 09175443063

SPR_BAT037 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 4,667 sqm (near Robinsons)
Bo. BALINTAWAK, LIPA
Min. Bid Price P 8,120,560

SPR_BAT038 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 1,879 sqm F.A. 250 sqm
Unnamed St. MASAGANA SUBD.
Tambo
Min. Bid Price : P 3,863,504

SPR_BAT039 WAREHOUSE
L.A. 846 sqm. F.A. 450 sqm.
Brgy Pansol, PADRE GARCIA
Min. Bid Price. P 2,358,600

BULACAN Text 09273333733

SPR-BUL010 RSDL LOT
L.A. 4,687 sqm.
Road 'Bgy. Kalantipay. BALIUAG
Min. Bid Price : P 1,160,032

SPR_BUL011 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 262 sqm. F.A. 160 sqm.
CABATOG SUBD., Sapang
Malanda, Malolos
Min. Bid Price : P 1,045,400

SPR_BUL012 RSDL LOT
L.A. 500 sqm.
Brgy. Malhacan, MEYCAUYAN
Min. Bid Price : P 283,500

SPRW_BUL020 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 250 sqm. F.A. 400 sqm.
BALAGTAS (near municipal hall)
Min. Bid Price. P 8,134,650.81

SPRW_BUL021 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 465 sqm.
SAN MIGUEL
Min. Bid Price: P 211,500

CAGAYAN Text 09198203838

SPRW_CGY022 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 369.50 sqm. (near LTO)
SAN GABRIEL VILL., Tuguegarao
Min. Bid Price: P 192,000

SPRW_CGY023 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 225 sqm. F.A. (near BPI)
P BURGOS, Poblacion, Tuguegarao
Min Bid Price: P 1,615,000

CAVITE Text 09189048230

SPR_CVT053 RSDL LOT
L.A. 279 sqm. (near SM Bacoor)
Violeta St. ANDREA VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price : P 834,907

SPR_CVT054 RSDL LOT
L.A. 270 sqm. (near SM Bacoor)
Violeta St. ANDREA VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price : P 831,915

SPR_CVT055 2 RSDL LOT
L.A. 21,191 sqm.
(near SM Dasma/Robinson)
Washington St. CITIVIEW FARMS
Min. Bid Price : P 7,343,490

SPR_CVT056 RSDL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm.
Orchard Ave.
THE ORCHARD SUBD.
Min. Bid Price : P 3,029,427

SPR_CVT057 RSDL LOT
L.A. 126 sqm.
MANILA ORCHARD
TOWNHOMES
Min. Bid Price : P 3,062,500

SPR_CVT059 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 48 sqm. F.A. 31 sqm.
SHERWOOD HOMES, Anabu, Imus
Min. Bid Price : P 238,119

SPRW_CVT024 RSDL LOT
L.A. 368 sqm.
Along Gomez St., AYALA
SOUTHVALE
Min. Bid Price: P 4,322,160

SPRW_CVT025 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 317 sqm.
Fernwood St., VISTA VERDE SOUTH
Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 744,950

SPRW_CVT026 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1,198 sqm.
Southwoods Ave., Ph. 3,
MANILA SOUTHWOODS, Carmona
Min. Bid Price. P 7,478,552

LAGUNA Text 09195801558

SPR_LGN060 RSDL LOT
L.A. 336 sqm.
GLENWOOD PARK, Calamba
Min. Bid Price : P 1,029,000

SPR_LGN061 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 280 sqm.
DONA EUSEBIA SUBD Yakal St.
Concepcion San Pablo
Min. Bid Price : P 4,172,720

SPRW_LGN027 RSD'L LOT W/ IMPRMT
L.A. 367 sqm
Interior of Lourdes St.,
Salcedo Subd., Mayapa
Min. Bid Price: P 734,000

NUEVA ECIJA Text 09156002733

SPR_NE013 RSDL LOT W/ WRHSE
L.A. 240 sqm. F.A. 160 sqm.
KAPITAN PEPE SUBD.,
Cabanatuan
Min. Bid price : P 614,160

SPR_NE014 RSDL LOT W/ WRHSE
L.A. 240 sqm. F.A. 100 sqm.
KAPITAN PEPE SUBD.,
Cabanatuan
Min. Bid price : P 612,000

SPR_NE015 RSD'L LOTS
L.A. 150 sqm.
Along QUIMSON EXTENSION ST.
Sangitan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,009,214

SPR_NE016 COMML LOT
L.A. 305 sqm.
Brgy. Bernardo City of
CABANATUAN
Min. Bid Price : P2,074,000

SPR_NE017 COMM'L/RSD'L BLDG
L.A. 301 sqm. F.A. 165 sqm.
Bernardo Dist. MAHARLIKA RD
Min. Bid Price: P 2,093,550

SPR_NE018 RSD'L/AGRI. LOT
L.A. 27,182 sqm
Cruz, ROJA
Min. Bid Price: P 3,926,310

SPR_NE020 4 RSDL LOTS W/ WRHSE
L.A. 376 sqm. F.A. 150 sqm
MAHARLIKA ROAD, Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price : P 5,800,000

SPR_NE021 HOUSE & LOT w/ WRHSE
L.A. 1,246 sqm. F.A. 96 sqm.
Melencio cor Manito KAPITAN PEPE
Min. Bid Price: P 3,958,587

SPR_NE022 RSDL LOT
L.A. 204 sqm.
Sto. Cristo, GAPAN
Min. Bid Price : P 88,740

SPR_NE023 RSDL LOT
L.A. 204 sqm.
Sto. Cristo, GAPAN
Min. Bid Price : P 270,048

SPR_NE024 2 AGRI LOTS
L.A. 32,907 sqm.
MUÑOZ
Min. Bid Price : P 652,000

SPR_NE025 5 RSDL/ AGRI LOT
L.A. 120,472 sqm.
Bantug, MUÑOZ
Min. Bid Price: P 6,014,400

SPR_NE026 2 AGRI LOT
L.A. 70,388 sqm.
Mapalad Brgy. Rd. Mapalad,
STA. ROSA
Min. Bid Price : P 8,075,000

SPR_NE027 2 AGRI LOTS
L.A. 12,720 sqm.
STO DOMINGO
Min. Bid Price: P 976,570

SPRW_NE028 APARTMENT
L.A. 858 sqm. (3 adjoining lots)
DOÑA ADELA SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P4,097,000

SPRW_NE029 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 885 sqm.
MAYAPYAP NORTE. Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P447,900

SPRW_NE030 RSDL LOT
L.A. 198 sqm
(near water Dist. Office)
BURGOS EXT., Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P880,400

SPRW_NE031 RSDL LOT
L.A. 400/400 sqm.(2 lots)
BO. VALDEFUENTE, Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P2,644,800

SPRW_NE032 RSDL LOT
L.A. 494 sqm.
Abigail St. San Jose
KAPITAN PEPE, Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,336,553.92

SPRW_NE033 RSD'L LOT.
L.A. 630 sqm.
Abigail St., San Jose
KAPITAN PEPE, Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P2,970,815.73

SPRW_NE034 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 876 sqm. F.A. 95.07
BO. MAYAPYAP, Cabanatuan City
Min. Bid Price: P 834,950

SPRW_NE036 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
San Jose
Min. Bid Price P216,000

PAMPANGA Text 09283771111

SPRW_PAM037 RSD'L/COMM'L LOT
L.A. 608 sqm. (near Dolores
Intersection)
Dolores, San Fernando
Min. Bid Price: P 8,600,000

SPRW_PAM038 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 180 sqm.
Sto. Tomas
Min. Bid Price: P 909,277

PANGASINAN Text 09154348252

SPR_PGN002 RSDL LOT
L.A. 10,812 sqm.
DON JUAN COMPOUND San
Felipe Sur
Min. Bid Price : P 3,293,100

SPR_PGN003 FISHPOND/RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,121 sqm.
Bo. Lomboy, BINMALEY
Min. Bid Price . P 97,440

SPR_PGN004 FISHPOND/RSDL LOT
L.A. 4,746.00 sqm.
Bo. Lomboy, BINMALEY
Min. Bid Price : P 421,325

SPR_PGN005 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,057 sqm.
Bo. of Torres, MAPANDAN
Min. Bid Price: P 522,747

SPR_PGN006 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,235 sqm.
VENTENILLA West, Sta. Barbara
Min. Bid Price : P 2,454,260

SPR_PGN007 5 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,500 sqm. @ 300 sqm./ lot
Callejon St., Brgy. Pinmaludpod,
URDANETA
Min. Bid Price : P 261,000/ lot

SPR_PGN008 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 777 sqm. F.A. 400 sqm.
Brgy. Pinaludpod, URDANETA
Min. Bid Price: P 2,228,000

SPR_PGN009 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 3,306sqm.
Brgy. Pinaludpod, URDANETA
Min. Bid Price: P 3,050,000

SPR_PGN040 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 1,173 sqm.
Brgy. Pinaludpod, URDANETA
Min. Bid Price. P 805,260

QUEZON PROVINCE Text 09209222495

SPR_QP002 2 RSDL LOT
L.A. 425 sqm (near DFA Office)
Within Puerto Del Mar Subd.
ILAYANG SABANG
Min. Bid Price: P 2,454,620

SPR_QP017 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,000 sqm. (near DFA Office)
Adjacent to Puerto Del Mar,
ILAYANG SABANG
Min. Bid Price. P 483,650

SPR_QP063 RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,000 sqm. (near DFA Office)
Adjacent to Puerto Del Mar,
ILAYANG SABANG
Min. Bid Price: P 817,100

SPR_QP064 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 232 sqm. F.A. 167.80 sqm.
Bahamas cor. Czechoslovakia Sts.
BETTER LIVING SUBD.
Min. Bid Price : P 1,700,000

SPR_QP065 RSDL LOT
L.A.9,501 sqm.
LORETA ST. Interior Brgy. Cotta
Min. Bid Price : P 1,710,180

SPR_QP066 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,850 sqm.
Diversion Rd. BRGY. IBABANG
DUPAY
Min. Bid Price : P 2,516,920

UOB_QP067 RSDL LOT
L.A. 12,031 sqm.
(near Town Proper)
National Hway Masin Sur,
CANDELARIA
Min. Bid Price. P 20,452,700

MEGA TAGAYTAY Text 09175443063

SPR_TGY040 RSDL LOT
L.A. 375 sqm.
RODEO HILLS SUBD. Mega Tagaytay
Min. Bid Price : P 351,900

SPR_TGY041 RSDL LOT
L.A. 375 sqm.
RODEO HILLS SUBD, Mega Tagaytay
Min. Bid Price : P 351,900

SPR_TGY042 RSDL LOT
L.A. 360 sqm.
RODEO HILLS SUBD, Mega Tagaytay
Min. Bid Price : P 229,500

SPR_TGY043 RSDL LOT
L.A. 375 sqm.
RODEO HILLS SUBD, Mega Tagaytay
Min. Bid Price P 278,900

SPR_TGY044 RSDL LOT
L.A. 333 sqm.
RODEO HILLS SUBD, Mega Tagaytay
Min. Bid Price : P 283,050

SPR_TGY045 RSDL LOT
L.A. 370 sqm.
RODEO HILLS SUBD, Mega Tagaytay
Min. Bid Price : P 629,000

SPR_TGY046 RSDL LOT
L.A. 480 sqm.
RODEO HILLS SUBD, Mega Tagaytay
Min. Bid Price : P 1,020,000

SPR_TGY047 RSDL LOT
L.A.300 sqm.
Taylor St. ROYALE TAGAYTAY EAST
Min. Bid Price : P 1,350,000

SPR_TGY048 RSDL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Johnson St. TAGAYTAY ROYALE
Min. Bid Price : P 1,428,000

TAGAYTAY Text 09175443063

SPR_TGY050 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 455 sqm. F.A. 220 sqm.
CITIFARMS SUBD. Crossing
Mendez West
Min. Bid Price : P 2,937,500

SPR_TGY051 RSDL LOT
L.A. 180 sqm.
PC Enlisted Men's & CITY
EMPLOYEE'S VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price : P 368,167

SPR_TGY052 RSDL LOT
L.A. 180 sqm.
PC Enlisted Men's & CITY
EMPLOYEE'S VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price : P 480,209

TARLAC Text 09277981340

SPR_TAR028 2 RSDL LOT
L.A. 389 sqm.
Bo. MATATALAIB
(near Grandmas Hotel)
Min. Bid Price : P 1,553,979

SPR_TAR 029 4 VACANT LOTS
L.A. 1,164 sqm.
Tibag, TARLAC
Min. Bid Price: P 512,031

SPR_TAR030 RSDL LOT
L.A. 267 sqm.
SAN ROQUE
Min. Bid Price : P 533,800

SPR_TAR032 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 200 sqm.
Bo. MALIWALO
Min. Bid Price: P 1,014,050

SPR_TAR033 3 RSDL LOT
L.A. 8,230 sqm.
Sitio BANGA-BANGA
Min. Bid Price : P 1,068,621

SPR_TAR034 10 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 21,940 sqm.
MONTEVERDE SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,490,000

SPR_TAR035 RSDL / COMML LOT
L.A. 373 sqm.
M.H. DEL PILAR ST. Bo. Sto. Cristo
Min. Bid Price: P 4,273,800

SPRW_TAR039 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 269 sqm.
SAN SEBASTIAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price P 170,975

AKLAN Text 09206186282

SPRW_AKL040 COMM'L LOT w/ BLDG
L.A. 5,874 sqm
cor. Lacema & Archbishop Reyes Sts.,
Poblacion, KALIBO
Min. Bid Price P 41,118,000

CAGAYAN DE ORO Text 09217388888

SPRW_CDO043 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 300 sqm
SALCEDO VILLAGE,
Brgy. Kauswagan
Min. Bid Price. P 510,000

SPRW_CDO044 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm
Along Pasil Rd.
BRGY. KAUSWAGAN
Min. Bid Price: P 606,000

SPRW_CDO045 COMM'L/ IND'L LOT
L.A. 3,600 SQM
National Hi-way, BULUA
Min. Bid Price: P 7,038,000

CEBU Text 09266256957

SPR_CBU130 RSDL LOT
L.A. 934 sqm.
(near gaisano country mall)
Paseo Angelina, MA. LUISA SUBD
Min. Bid Price: P 3,453,465

SPRW_CEB041COMM'L LOT
L.A. 300 sqm
BO. BANILAD
Min. Bid Price: P 1,614,568

SPRW_CEB042 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 777 sqm
SUNNY HILLS, Talamban
Min. Bid Price: P 1,572,560

COTABATO Text 09192653012

SPR_COT131 4 STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 230 sqm. F.A. 885 sqm.
Don Roman VILO ST.
Min. Bid Price : P 9,905,050

SPR_COT132 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,200 sqm. F.A. 600 sqm
GOV. GUTIERREZ AVE.
Min. Bid Price : P 7,018,450.00

SPRW_COT046 RSDL LOT
L.A. 400 sqm.
DON. E. SERO
Min. Bid Price: P 700,000

SPSW_COT048 RSDL LOT
L.A. 666 sqm
MALAGAPAS
Min. Bid Price: P 358,092

SPRW_COT051 RSDL LOT
L.A. 238 sqm.
Santos Ext., KRISLAMVILLE
Min. Bid Price. P 490,403.35

DAVAO Text 09262357031

SPR_DAV133 COMML LOT
L.A. 10,152 sqm.
(near Grand Regal Hotel)
J. P. Laurel Ave., LANANG
Min. Bid Price: P 56,168,850

SPR_DAV134 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,109 sqm.
Balusong, SM VILLAGE EXT. Bangkal
Min. Bid Price: P 1,687,200

SPRW_DAV52 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1,265 sqm
CATALUNAN GRANDE
Min. Bid Price. P 1,827,925

SPRW_DAV053 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 917 sqm.
TURIL
Min. Bid Price: P 403,040

SPRW_DAV054 COMM'L LOT
L.A. 19,152 sqm
KM.7 J.P. Laurel
Min. Bid Price: P 56,168,850

GENERAL SANTOS Text 09267666746

SPR_GSC135 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 11,424 sqm.
(near Muslim Mosque/ new society
nat'l school)
Cor. Diversion Road,
Bo. of APOPONG
Min. Bid Price: P 970,700

SPR_GSC 13- HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 204 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm
VERGARA SUBD., City Heights
Min. Bid Price: P332,350

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL Text 09214488869

SPR_NEG129 RAWLAND
L.A. 71,964 sqm.
s/in Brgy Lopez Jaena SAGAY, CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

SPRW_NEG056 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 720 sqm (3 lots available)
Ysabel St., ANTILLA SUBD.,
Bilay City
Min. Bid Price: P 244,800 each

ZAMBOANGA Text 09155511063

SPR_ZAM137 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm.
(near former Alta mall bldg.)
Int. of Canelar, TETUAN
Min. Bid Price: P 3,570,000

SPR_ZAM138 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 352 sqm. F.A. 148 sqm.
(near BCC Barter)
MONSERAT Dr. San Jose Road
Min. Bid Price. P824,000

SPRW_ZAM057 RSDL LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
STA. MARIA
Min. Bid Price : P 1,684,257.64

SPRW_ZAM058 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 311 sqm. F.A. 160 sqm.
STA. MARIA
Min. Bid Price: P 355,742.40

SPRW_ZAM059 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 495 sqm. F.A. 300 sqm.
(near Barangay hall), TUGBUNGAN
Min. Bid Price: P 1,630,000.00

SPRW_ZAM060 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,956 sqm.
BO. TETUAN
(near former Alta mall bldg.)
Min. Bid Price: P 8,500,000.00

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A visit to Rapu-Rapu

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

AS A BICOLANO and an unabashed pro-mining advocate, I have been following the Rapu-Rapu story with great interest.

I spent the better part of last Tuesday at Rapu-Rapu. I was the guest of longtime friend Sonny Dominguez who is now the chief executive officer of the place.

I took the early morning PAL flight to Legazpi. From Legazpi, I took a pleasant one and a half hour ferryboat ride to Lafayette's mining operations in Rapu-Rapu Island.

In the air-conditioned, well-appointed main office (I felt I was in an Ayala Avenue office), I went through a three-stage Power Point briefing conducted by three lovely Bicolanas (this was the part I enjoyed the most).

The first stage covered the safety rules any visitor is expected to follow. The second stage, conducted by a chemical engineer, was a thorough technical description of the project. The third stage described the project's social impact on the community.

After an excellent chicken and vegetable lunch at the mess hall, I was brought around. I had to wear the prescribed hard hat, goggles, steel-toed shoes and a vest of bright yellow plastic netting.

The municipality of Rapu-Rapu consists of three islands: Rapu-Rapu, Batan and another island whose name escapes me. Rapu-Rapu island lies about 40 nautical miles off the Pacific Ocean side of Albay. The island has an area of approximately 5,000 hectares, about the same size as Manila.

The mine is on a hill in the middle of the island and is about seven kilometers (about the distance from Makati to Cubao) from the poblacion. The aboveground facilities—mill, plant, storage tanks, housing, tailing pond, offices, mess hall, roads, etc.—cover 180 hectares.

There are no below-ground facilities because Rapu-Rapu is an open pit mine. This means that the ore body is buried not too deeply. It is economical to merely bulldoze away the earth, or the overburden, covering the ore body.

The pit—where all the digging takes place—has an area of only 17 hectares. That is less than half the size of the Ayala Center in Makati. The bottom of the ore body is about 100 meters deep. That is about the length of a city block at Ayala Avenue.

At great expense (I am told about $400 million), Lafayette has done everything that the DENR has asked. For example, the concrete water tank where the spillage occurred has been expanded to handle the heaviest rainfall. Each electrically driven pump is backed up by diesel driven pump. This way, in case of a power outage, the diesel pumps take over.

Also, the detoxified wastewater is piped into a holding pond, which is really a small valley hemmed in by an earth dam. After the solid matter settles, the water is recycled back to the plant. No wastewater goes to the sea.

As an insurance broker of long standing, I can confidently recommend to the most prudent insurer that the Rapu-Rapu mine is insurable against all types of risks.

During the three months that the mine was operating, all the gold ore was dug up. The ore was actually an overburden covering the deposits of copper, silver and zinc.

The plan is to dig up the rest of the ore in six years. After that, the decommissioning and clean-up prescribed in the mining act will begin. The buildings and machinery will be dismantled and shipped out, probably to another mine site. The pit will be filled up with water. The anti-erosion and beautification program shall have long taken root. Rapu-Rapu will be a lovely park, to the delight, I am sure, of the strictest environmentalist.

Compared to the huge open pit mines of Marcopper in Marinduque and Atlas Consolidated in Cebu, the Rapu-Rapu mine is teeny-weeny. When everything is over, Rapu-Rapu will probably rate an asterisk in the long mining history of the Philippines. Future generations may well wonder what the fuss was all about.

The mining act prescribes that the three barangays directly affected by the mine, the municipality and the province will each receive their fixed shares of the annual gross income of the mine. What the local governments should do is set up a self-sustaining foundation to catch all that money so that the people will reap the fruits of the mine in perpetuity.

Last Friday, DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes gave the go-ahead to start the 30-day test run. The large staff of Filipino engineers, male and female, is supremely confident Rapu-Rapu will pass the test with flying colors.

Gov't . . .

From page B1

in the second quarter on account of higher production of rice and corn. The growth in farm output was attributed to better weather condition this year, given the absence of the El Niño weather disturbance that was experienced last year.

With the agriculture sector contributing about a fifth of the country's entire economic output, the gross domestic product for the second quarter was estimated to have grown by at least 5.5 percent.

GDP, the most common measure of an economy's performance, is the total value of goods produced and services rendered domestically in a given period.

The projected GDP growth of at least 5.5 percent in the second quarter, if attained, would keep the country on track of the government's target of achieving a GDP growth of between 5.5 and 6.2 percent for the entire 2006.

Bangko Sentral to scale down inflation forecast

Stable peso-dollar rate helps ease pressure

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS set to scale down its inflation forecast of 7.3-7.9 percent for this year in line with expectations that pressures on consumer prices would further ease in the coming months.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters on Friday that a revision in the country's inflation forecast would be discussed by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee during its meeting this week.

"The average will likely be lower than 7.3-7.9 percent," Guinigundo said, noting that the average for the first six months was already below this projection at 7.06 percent.

"We maintain the view that inflation will continue to ease in the second half of 2006," he said.

He said that after slowing down to 6.9 percent in May and 6.7 percent in June, the country's inflation was expected to continue slow down starting this month.

The forecast of 7.3-7.9 percent was higher than the official government target of 4-5 percent, as it took into account the hike in the value added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent starting last February and the assumption that Dubai crude oil prices will hit about $62 per barrel versus last year's average of $49.31 per barrel.

For next year, the government expects Dubai crude prices to average higher at $63.36 per barrel. Despite this, however, the BSP sees the inflation easing back to the target range of 4-5 percent next year alongside expectations of a stable exchange rate and soft domestic interest rates.

It was assumed that the exchange rate would remain stable at P51-53 to the US dollar from this year until 2010. The strong peso, which is expected to result in lower import bill, is seen to temper the rise in country's inflation rate.

The recent downtrend in domestic inflation has, in turn, eased the pressure on the BSP to follow the monetary tightening in the United States, Europe and Japan.

The BSP's policy-making board has maintained the 7.5 percent rate for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending since October last year.

PNB's planned $100-M tier 2 offering OKd

THE MONETARY BOARD HAS APPROVED Philippine National Bank's offering of up to $100 million in tier 2 or subordinated debt papers or its peso equivalent.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Nestor Espenilla Jr. told reporters on Friday that the Monetary Board had given PNB the flexibility to raise tier 2 capital either through a local offering or a foreign notes issuance.

The board earlier allowed PNB to tap the offshore bond market through a new tier 2 issuance worth $100 million.

Under the new risk-based capital adequacy framework adopted by the BSP, qualifying capital consists of tier 1 or core capital and tier 2 or supplementary capital, less deductions.

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, in an earlier commentary hailed PNB's strong franchise and network, improving financial profile, including loan quality, and its underlying profitability.

Despite the significant improvements, however, S&P said PNB's operating and financial profile continued to be comparatively weaker by domestic and global standards.

Doris C. Dumlao

Peco allowable base rate raised

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION slightly increased the earlier approved allowable base rate of Panay Electric Co. Inc. (Peco), following the inclusion of certain items that were omitted during the initial computation.

In an order dated June 27, the regulatory body jacked up the power distributor's total allowable base rate as of Dec. 31, 2004 to P2.553 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

The peso component of the base rate, however, will be adjusted monthly based on the consumer price index factor and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas-published exchange rate on the last day of the applicable billing month.

Under the revised order, the allowable base generation rates, excluding allowable fuel cost, for the period Dec. 14, 2005 to Jan. 15, 2009 are P1.3937 per kWh up to the 373,032,024 kWh minimum guaranteed electrical quantity (MGEQ) and 20 centavos in excess of the MGEQ.

The superseded March 10 order pegged the MGEQ rate at P1.0737 per kWh and the beyond-MGEQ rate at 73.47 centavos per kWh.

For the dollar component, the base rates are 2.06 US cents per kWh up to MGEQ and 1.42 US cents per kWh beyond MGEQ.

This used to be 1.83 US cents per kWh up to MGEQ and beyond for the same period.

From Jan. 16, 2009 to January 2025, the allowable base rates are now P1.3937 per kWh up to MGEQ and 20 centavos per kWh in excess of MGEQ. The dollar component is placed at 1.42 US cents per kWh up to and beyond MGEQ.

Under the previous order, the rates were pegged at P1.0737 per kWh up to MGEQ and 73.47 per kWh beyond MGEQ. The dollar component was placed at 1.22 US cents per kWh up to and in excess of MGEQ.

Abigail L. Ho

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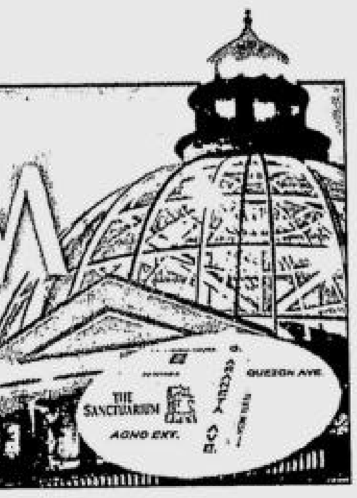
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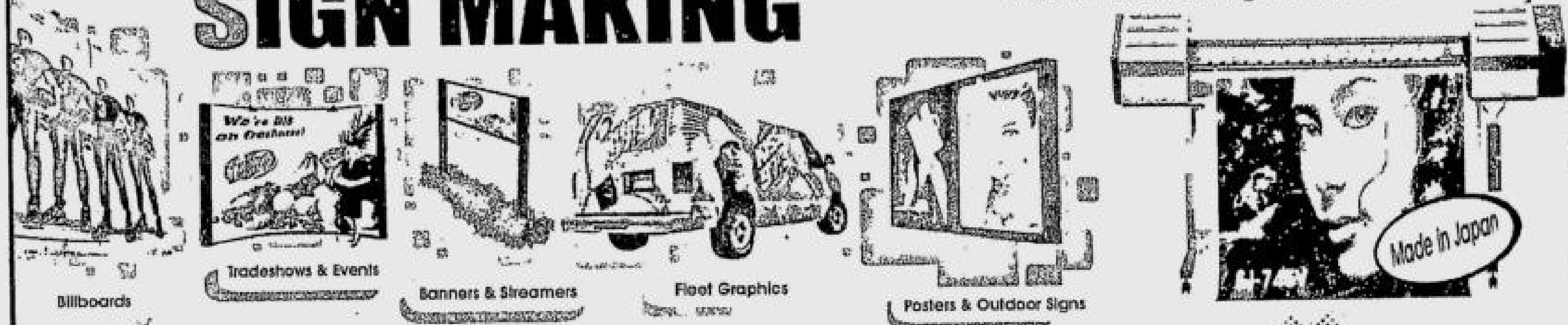

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Valid for travel from June 27 to July 31, 2006. For sale from June 26 to July 26, 2006. Prices are per person. Tour package rates are based on twin share.

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"There is an appointed time for everything
and a time for every affair under the heavens ...
whatever God does will endure forever..."
■ Ecclesiastes 3:1, 14

DOLORES GAFFUD CUMAGUN

(27 May 1918 – 06 July 2006)

Widow of Ambassador Manuel R. Cumagun (Retired)

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 88.

She is survived by her loving children: **Tony** and **Ester**, **Joe** and **Oning**, **Vic** and **Nancy**, **Noli** and **Barbara**, **Malu** and **Luie**; grandchildren: **Anne**, **Franjo**, **Anthony** and **Angel**, **Michael** and **Kaoru**, **John Paul**, **Annette** and **Vincent**, **Victor** and **Amy**, **Deryk** and **Tracey**, **Michelle**, **Nikki** and **Gino**; great-grandchildren: **Michelle**, **Jaime**, **Camille**, **Paolo**, **Kenichi**, **Reiji**, **Vinette**, **Bria**, **Nico**, **Danielle** and **Adrienne**, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 11 July 2006 after the 2 p.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

Julio "July" Apostol Salazar

who joined our Lord
on June 2, 2006 at the age of 54

Our beloved **Papa** was given a second life almost 10 years ago when he underwent a heart bypass operation. Since then, he celebrated his birthday twice every year .... October 9 which was the date when he was bypassed and November 14 – his birthday. He thanked God everyday and dedicated every minute of his life to Him.

He was a leader and a follower. A crusader and a believer. He was a gift and a blessing for all of us. The best father one could ever have.

He was truly a MAN OF GOD.

To all his friends, relatives and clients of Mutipest Services, we, his immediate family, wife **Norma**; children **Anthony** & **Lyn**, **Junosa**, **Junice** and **Mark**; sisters, brothers and grandchildren would like to thank all of you for the spontaneous outpouring of love, sympathy and support.

He will live in our hearts knowing that he has touched and inspired so many lives and organizations in his concern for others.

IN MEMORY OF THE
7TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LATE

MARCELO BRIONES FERNAN

25 October 1927 – 11 July 1999

Holy Masses will be offered on Tuesday, July 11, 2006
at the following churches:

CEBU

Cebu Memorial Park	5:30 P.M.
Sacred Heart Church	6:00 A.M.
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral	6:30 A.M.
Redemptorist Church	7:00 A.M.
Santo Rosario Church	7:00 A.M.
Basilica del Sto. Niño	8:00 A.M.
St. Therese of the Child Jesus	12:15 P.M.
Capitol Parish Church	12:15 P.M.
Mabolo Parish Church	6:00 P.M.

MANILA

Christ the King Church Green Meadows, Q.C.	7:00 A.M.
Santuario de San Jose	7:15 A.M.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati	7:30 A.M.
Santuario de San Antonio	12:15 P.M.
Mary the Queen Church	6:00 P.M.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori	6:00 P.M.

BOGO, CEBU

San Vicente Parish Church	5:00 A.M & 5:00 P.M.

Please join his family and friends in prayer for his eternal happiness.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith
(2 Timothy 4)

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CLASSIFIEDS

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the supply and delivery of six (6) months material requirements stated below are hereby invited to pre-qualify with Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II). Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding

PACKAGE 1.

1.	Wire, guy, steel, 3/8", 7 strands, Galv Steel	3,620 pcs.
2.	Wire, POLYACSR#2, AWG, Code Name: Pignut	16,600 meters
3.	Wire, ACSR #2 Code Name: Sparrow	22,000 meters
4.	Wire, ACSR #2/0, Code Name: Quail	10,000 meters
5.	Wire, ACSR#336.4, AWG, Code Name: Merlin	250 meters
6.	Wire #1/0 AWG, tw, cu, stranded	150 meters
7.	Wire, #8 AWG, tw, cu, solid	250 meters
8.	Wire, #2/0 AWG, tw, cu, stranded	250 meters
9.	Conductor, THHN, Copper, Stranded, 8.0 mm sqd.	10,000 meters
10.	Same as item No. 9 except 14.0 mm sqd., Black	5,000 meters
11.	Same as item No. 9 except 2.0 mm sqd., Black	900 meters
12	Conductor, Duplex, #6 AWG	55,000 meters

PACKAGE 2.

1	Transformer, Distribution, 1-Ph, 10 KVA,	3 units
2.	Same as Description of No. 1 except 15 KVA	9 units
3.	Same as Description of No. 1 except 25 KVA	12 units
4.	Same as Description of No. 1 except 37.5 KVA	6 units
5	Same as Description of No. 1 except 50 KVA	3 units

PACKAGE 3.

1.	Socket Base, 1 "Hubs, C1 - 100, 4 Jaws, 2 Wire Converted	1,900 pcs
2.	Socket Base, 1 - Ph, C1 - 200, 4 Jaws, Heavy Duty, Rectangular	250 pcs
3.	Meter KWH, 1 - Ph, 3 W, Class 200, Fm - 2S, 60 Hz, 170s	2,500 units
4	Meter, Electronic, 1 - Ph, 3 W, 240 V, C1-200, 60 Hz, Fm 2S 240V, I - 210 GE	200 units

PACKAGE 4.

1.	1 Pair Solid Anchor, Concrete 4"r x 4'	240 pcs.
2.	Pole, Steel, 25'00", Octagonal Type	100 pcs.
3.	Pole, Steel, 55'00", Octagonal, Class 3	20 pcs.
4.	Pole, Steel, 30'00", Octagonal type	50 pcs.
5.	Pole, Concrete, 35'00", Round Type Cl-5	10 pcs.
6.	Pole, Concrete, 35'00", Round Type Cl-3	10 pcs.

PACKAGE 5.

Six (6) months supplies for the following items:

a. Line Hardwares, connectors, fuse links, steel cross-arms, lightning arrester cut-outs grip and others.
b. Service entrance materials and drops (assorted).

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MR. PABLITO D. MAGCALAS, at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines. Bid documents are available beginning July 13, 2006.

Submission of Prequalification Documents	July 13 - 20, 2006
Date and Time of Prebid Conference	July 20, 2006, 1:30 PM

Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Prebid Conference.
Accredited suppliers previously prequalified need only to update their files with TARELCO II.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) PABLITO D. MAGCALAS
PBAC Chairman

(PDI- July 7 & 10, 2006)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

6CB-GSC-061

PURCHASE OF VARIOUS IT EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE
(Name of Project)
35 items of different IT Equipments and Software
(pls. see also details @ www.gensantos.gov.ph)

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through the CY 2006 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Three Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Five Pesos (P2,319,495.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Purchase of Various IT Equipments and Software. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of Various IT Equipments and Software. Delivery of the GOODS is required by **30 calendar days**. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Goverment Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsive of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P1,000.00 to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested on **July 13, 2006, 2:00 o'clock** in the afternoon at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 o'clock** in the afternoon of **July 25, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and a Half Percent (1½%) of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to Two and a half Percent (2½%) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at **2:00 o'clock** in the afternoon of **July 25, 2006** at the **BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
Gina Y. Pigar
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553, (083) 302-7210
Fax: (083) 301-0553
website address: www.gensantos.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 3 & 10, 2006)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

June 2, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING INTERESTED BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING PACKAGES:

PACKAGE 1:
Transformer, Distribution 7620/13200, 220 volts

25 KVA	20 units
37.5 KVA	20 units
50 KVA	20 units

PACKAGE 2:
Conductor, ACSR Bare

#2	10,000 meters
#1/0	100,000 meters
#2/0	25,000 meters
#3/0	25,000 meters
#4/0	25,000 meters
Conductor, ACSR Polytheline #1/0	15,000 meters
Conductor, ACSR Duplex #6	50,000 meters
TW Wire #1/0 Copper	5 rolls
TW Wire #2 Copper	5 rolls
TW Wire #4	5 rolls
TW Wire #6 Copper	15 rolls
TW Wire #8 Copper	15 rolls
THHN #12 Stranded Copper	20 rolls

PACKAGE 3:
Assorted Pole Line Hardwares, Insulators, Fuse Links, Connectors and Fuse Cut-Outs with L.A
(Note: Detailed items and quantity are specified on bidding documents)

You are therefore invited to submit your bids/proposals to the PBAC and participate in a sealed bidding on July 14, 2006 (Friday), 10:30 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua Pampanga wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representatives. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted. Before the bidding prope there will be an orientation scheduled on July 11, 2006, 10:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room.

REQUEST FURTHER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SEALED BIDS/PROPOSALS ASIDE FROM THE BID AMOUNT, THE TERMS OF PAYMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF STOCKS. THE BID BOND IS EITHER IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT (2.5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OR SURETY BOND (W/ O.R.) EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE. ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT PELCO II BOARD ROOM AT EXACTLY 10:30 A.M. TO SECURE BID DOCUMENTS AND FURTHER CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT OR VISIT PBAC CHAIRMAN ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS, TEL. NO. (045) 900-2050 OR MR. NEIL S. ISIP AT (045) 901-0864-65.

LATE SUBMISSION OF BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE PBAC HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY IN THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT SUCH MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS
PBAC Chairperson

Noted by:

(Sgd.) MR. SULPICIO C. LAGARDE JR.
General Manager

(PDI-July 9 & 10, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
PDEA Building, NIA Northside Road
National Government Center
Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City 1100

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Bids and Awards Committee is inviting all PNP Accredited Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

Quantity	Nomenclature	Specification	Approved Budget for Contract
100 pieces	caliber .40 pistol	PDEA UESC Resolution for caliber .40 pistol	Php 3,992,980.00
774 pieces	caliber .45 pistol	PDEA UESC Resolution for caliber .45 pistol	Php 20,278,800.00

A pre-qualification and pre-bid conferences will be held at the PDEA Conference Room, PDEA Building, NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Bgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City on July 18 and 21, respectively, both at 10:00 a.m., during which time the PDEA Bids and Awards Committee (PDEA BAC) shall inform the prospective bidders of the requirement for pre-qualification (legal and Technical aspects), distribute copies of the specifications and announce the requirements for eligibility, and the prospective bidders shall submit samples or prototype for inspection, test and evaluation. Application forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the Logistics and Management Service with same address as mentioned above.

The PDEA BAC prefers that the samples or prototype must be accompanied by certification that same had passed the test and evaluation conducted by the PNP DRD Technical Group.

All prospective bidders who have been blacklisted by the government need not apply.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contracts, and other related matters should be in accordance to the provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The PDEA reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **GEN. DIONISIO R. SANTIAGO** (Ret)
Sr. Undersecretary/Director General

(PDI - July 3 & 10, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
654 pcs. 14K Gold Ring	P9,221,400.00	July 20, 2006 2:00 pm	August 2, 2006 1:00 PM	P 4,700.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting July 10, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the abovementioned address

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s)

(PDI-July 10 & 17, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel Nos 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
5 sets ECCS Reader plus Two (2) Years Maintenance Services	P3,300,800.00	July 13, 2006 2:00 pm	July 26, 2006 1:00 PM	P 1,700.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting July 3, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - July 3 & 10, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bataan Economic Zone

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY-BATAAN ECONOMIC ZONE (PEZA-BEZ) through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum as indicated below being the **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contracts for the projects located at the Bataan Economic Zone, Mariveles, Bataan as listed hereunder:

Project No.	Name of Contract	Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC) (Php)
I.	RE-ROOFING OF SFB #11	3,924,359.31
II.	RE-ROOFING AND REPAIR OF PARAPET AT SFB #3	6,019,796.35
III.	RE-ROOFING AND REPAIR OF PARAPET AT SFB #5	6,019,796.35

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2. The PEZA-BEZ now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the above mentioned projects for the supply and installation of **uPVC (Thermoplastic Roofing panels, rib-type, long span and accessories**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License and classified as "Medium A" for buildings, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC for each project and meet the other minium eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened and a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post qualification.

The Schedule of Activities for the projects is as follows:

Project No.	Receipt of LOI Issuance & price of Eligibility Forms/ Documents/Non-Refundable	Deadline for Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Documents	Issuance & Price of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Duration of Contract	Pre-Bid Conference	Opening of Bids
I.	Php 100.00 July 17-21,2006 8:00 A.M-5:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M Aug. 2, 2006	Php 2,000.00 Aug. 16-18 2006	90 CD	2:00 P.M. Aug 24, 2006	2:00 P.M. Sept. 7 2006
II.	Php 100.00 July 17-21, 2006 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M. Aug. 2, 2006 5:00 P.M.	Php 5,000.00 Aug. 16-18. 2006	90 CD	3:00 P.M. Aug 24, 2006	3:00 P.M. Sept. 7, 2006
III.	Php 100.00 July 17-21, 2006 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. BAC Secretariat EMD Office, Grd. Flr., BEZ Admin. Bldg.	5:00 P.M. BAC Secretariat EMD Office, Grd. Flr., BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Php 5,000.00 Aug 16-18. 2006 BAC Secretariat/Finance Div., Grd. Flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	90 CD	4:00 P.M. Aug. 24, 2006 AV Room, 2nd Flr., BEZ Admin. Bldg.	4:00 P.M. Sept. 7, 2006 AV Room, 2nd Flr., BEZ Admin. Bldg.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from PEZA-BEZ and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. The method of payment for Bid Documents will be on a **cash basis only**. The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:30 p.m. of September 7, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, manager's check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable Letter of Credit in the amount of not less than Php 39,243.59 for Project I and Php 60,197.96 each for Projects II and III, Bank Guarantee in the amount of not less than Php 58,865.39 for Project I and Php 90,296.94 each for Projects II & III, or in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than Php 98,108.98 for Project I and Php 150,494.91 each for Projects II & III. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
6. Bid opening shall be on 7 September 2006 as mentioned above and will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative who choose to attend.
7. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
8. The PEZA-BEZ reserves the right to accept any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority – BEZ
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Ground Floor, EMD Office, BEZ
Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan
Tel. Nos. (047) 935-4008; (047) 935-5002 / Fax No. (047) 935-6046

E-mail: bez@unit.net.ph
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **DIONISIO T. SAMEN**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted:
(Sgd.) **CHARLES M. RAMONES**
Officer-in-Charge, BEZ

(PDI–July 10 & 17, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR LUZON
3rd Floor, Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

(In compliance with R.A. 7641)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER I, Item No. OMBA-GI01-85-1998; SG-26; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR).

Interested applicants should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Administrative Division, at the above address with the following requirements pursuant to Officer Order No. 49-05.

1. A letter stating the position applied for;
2. Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (Civil Service Commission Form 212);
3. "1x1" picture (colored);
4. Bar Rating;
5. Transcript of Records;
6. Certificates of Seminars/Training Attended;
7. Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the position assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8. Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9. Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

(PDI- July 10, 2006)

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 48VDC Power Supply and Microprocessor

[Reference No.: PB060504-EL0079]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region* (TRANSCO-HO) through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of ***Php 18,655,000.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 48VDC Power Supply and Microprocessor**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Power Supply & Microprocessor*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders, starting **July 3, 2006 to August 6, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)***. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **July 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at same address below. Requests for clarification on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 p.m. of August 7, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	1% of ABC
2. Bank guarantee	1.5% of ABC
3. Surety Bond	2.5% of ABC
4. Foreign government guarantee	100% of ABC

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **August 7, 2006 / 2:00 p.m.** at the *Admin Conference Room same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 3 & 10, 2006)

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
Jaro, Iloilo City, Philippines
Tel. No. 3202431
Fax No. (033) 3202623
Email address: univhosp@iloilo.net
"PHIC Accredited Health Care Provider"

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items.

Item/Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)	End User
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids		
1. Supply, Delivery and Installation of One (1) lot of Radiologic/ Diagnostic Equipment namely a. Whole Body CT Scan System, Multi Slice (1 set) b. Ultrasound Machine, 4 probes w/ 3D (1 set) c. Ultrasound Machine, 5 probes w/ 4D (1 set) d. Conventional X-Ray Machine, 500 MA, 150 KV (1 set) e. R/F X-Ray Machine, 800 MA, 150 KV (1 set) On a lease-to-own scheme for a fixed term of five (5) years	P143,000,000.00	July 20, 2006 9 AM Conference Room	August 1, 2006 9 AM Conference Room	P10,000.00	Radiology
2. Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Materials, Supplies and Reagents on Consignment Scheme	P. 5,197,393.00	July 17, 2006 9 AM Conference Room	July 28, 2006 9 AM Conference Room	P 2,000.00	Laboratory

The Bid documents shall be available at the West Visayas State University Medical Center Supply Office starting July 17 to July 20, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at West Visayas State University Medical Center Conference Room-Ground Floor, E. Lopez St., Jaro, Iloilo City

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the above mentioned address

For more information, please call the West Visayas State University Medical Center Supply Office at telephone numbers (033) 320-2431 to 38 local 223.

West Visayas State University Medical Center reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. West Visayas State University Medical Center further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

Approved by: (Sgd.) **ANNA VICTORIA J. SOMBONG, M.D.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 3 & 10, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the Special Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System, Quezon Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 1:00 p.m. on 31 July 2006 at the System Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO-SYS) for the selection of rice supplier.

Total approved budget ceiling: P7,500,000.00

The pre-bid conference will be held on 18 July 2006 at 1:00 p.m., SPMO-SYS, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Bid documents at P8,000.00 per set are available starting 11 July 2006 at the SPMO-SYS. Contact person: Mr. Eduardo G. Sabat, Telefax No.: 926-4919, e-mail address: egsabat@up.edu.ph

The University of the Philippines System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **FERDINAND G. MANEGDEG**
Chair, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 10, 2006)

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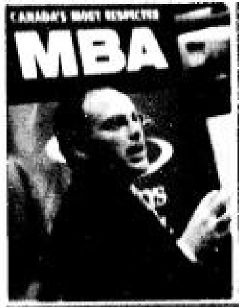

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From left to right: Edison Oribiana (Davies Paints), Joseph Cruel (URC), Carole Lopez (MSD), Chiqui Escareal-Go (Mansmith President), Josiah Go (Mansmith Chairman and YMMA Founder), Jade Tulio (HBC), Anson Dichavez (Unilever) and Ricarte Gapuz, Jr. (RAGRC)

- 1st Young Market Masters Summit Overview
  by Josiah Go, Chairman, Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. and Founder, Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA)
- Launching and Developing New Brands and Product Categories
  by Joseph Cruel, Senior Product Manager for Beverages, Universal Robina Corporation and YMMA Awardee for Brand Management
- Opportunity-Seeking in the Marketplace
  by Ricarte Gapuz Jr., Chairman, R.A. Gapuz Review Center and YMMA Awardee for Entrepreneurial Marketing
- Special Session: Using Advocacy Marketing to Communicate Your Message
  by Chiqui Escareal-Go, President and Managing Director, Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.
- Open Forum with morning speakers
- Developing Big Ideas to Grab Market Shares
  by Edison Oribiana, Business Development Manager, Davies Paints and YMMA Awardee for Business Development
- Managing Key Accounts for Growth and Preferred Supplier Status
  by Anson Dichaves, Director for Regional Customer Development Training for Asia, Unilever (Singapore) and YMMA Awardee for Customer Development
- Improving Volume Thru In-Store Marketing and Promotions
  by Jade Tulio, Vice President for Marketing, HBC Inc. and YMMA Awardee for Retail Marketing
- Open Forum with afternoon speakers
- Call for Nomination of the 2nd Young Market Masters Awards
  by Josiah Go, Chairman, Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. and Founder, Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA)

Course Investment
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

SEC CIRCULAR NO. 9
Series of 2006

TO : ALL DOMESTIC NON-STOCK CORPORATIONS
SUBJECT : SUBMISSION OF GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

In line with the full disclosure requirement of existing laws, all domestic non-stock corporations are required to use the revised official General Information Sheet (GIS) for non-stock corporations, GIS-NON-STOCK (v.2006), attached.

The official GIS form is available for downloading at the SEC website (www.sec.gov.ph) or from any of the Commission's offices.

This circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and at the SEC website. Hereafter, only filings that conform to the format of the official GIS form shall be accepted by the Commission. Filings that deviate from this form shall be considered as non-compliant with existing rules and regulations.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines

20 June 2006.

(Sgd.) FE B. BARIN
Chairperson

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET (GIS)

NON-STOCK CORPORATION
FOR THE YEAR ________________

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. FOR USER CORPORATION: THIS GIS SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING AS STATED IN THE BY-LAWS. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEM BLANK.** WRITE "N.A." IF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THE CORPORATION OR "NONE" IF THE INFORMATION IS NON-EXISTENT.
2. IF THE ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING IS HELD ON A DATE OTHER THAT THAT STATED IN THE BY-LAWS, THE GIS SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE ACTUAL DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING.
3. THIS GIS SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ENGLISH AND CERTIFIED AND SWORN TO BY THE CORPORATE SECRETARY, OF THE CORPORATION.
4. ALL CHANGES ARISING BETWEEN ANNUAL MEETINGS AND AFFECTING THE INFORMATION STATED IN THE GIS, SUCH AS THE DEATH, RESIGNATION OR CESSATION OF HOLDING OF OFFICE OF A DIRECTOR, TRUSTEE, OR OFFICER, SHALL BE REFLECTED IN AN AMENDED GIS LABELED AS SUCH AND THE CHANGES CLEARLY HIGHLIGHTED. THE AMENDED GIS SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN THIRTY [30] DAYS AFTER SUCH CHANGES OCCURRED OR BECAME EFFECTIVE.
5. SUBMIT FIVE (5) COPIES OF THE GIS TO THE CENTRAL RECEIVING SECTION, GROUND FLOOR, SEC BLDG., EDSA, MANDALUYONG CITY. ALL COPIES SHALL BE ON A4 OR LETTER-SIZE PAPER WITH THE STANDARD COVER SHEET. THE PAGES OF ALL COPIES SHALL USE ONLY ONE SIDE. CORPORATIONS SUBMITTING A SOFT COPY OF THEIR GIS SHALL SUBMIT FOUR (4) HARD COPIES OF THE GIS, TOGETHER WITH A CERTIFICATION UNDER OATH BY ITS PRESIDENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR CORPORATE SECRETARY THAT THE SOFT COPY CONTAINS THE EXACT DATA IN THE HARD COPIES.
6. **ONLY THE GIS ACCOMPLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS COMPLIANT WITH EXISTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.**
7. THIS GIS MAY BE USED AS EVIDENCE AGAINST THE CORPORATION AND ITS RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES/OFFICERS FOR ANY VIOLATION OF EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

CORPORATE NAME:		DATE REGISTERED:	
BUSINESS/ TRADE NAME		FISCAL YEAR END:	
SEC REGISTRATION NUMBER:		CORPORATE TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN):	
DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING PER BY-LAWS:		WEBSITE/URL ADDRESS:	
DATE OF ACTUAL MEETING:		EMAIL ADDRESS:	
COMPLETE PRINCIPAL OFFICE ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE NUMBER(S):	
COMPLETE BUSINESS ADDRESS:		FAX NUMBER(S):	
PRIMARY PURPOSE ENGAGED IN:			
NAME OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR & SIGNING PARTNER:		SEC ACCREDITATION NUMBER:	TELEPHONE NUMBER(S):

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GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

NON-STOCK CORPORATION
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY
CORPORATE NAME:

DIRECTORS / OFFICERS

NAME CURRENT, COMPLETE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	NATIONALITY	INCORPORATOR	BOARD	OFFICER	TAX IDENTIFICATION NO. (TIN) FOR FILIPINOS or PASSPORT NO. FOR FOREIGNERS
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

INSTRUCTIONS:
[illegible]

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

NON STOCK CORPORATION
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY
CORPORATE NAME

1. INTERCOMPANY AFFILIATIONS

PARENT COMPANY	SEC REG. NO.	ADDRESS
AFFILIATE	**SEC REG. NO.**	**ADDRESS**

NOTE: USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY

2. INVESTMENT OF CORPORATE FUNDS IN ANOTHER CORPORATION	AMOUNT (in PhP)	DATE OF BOARD RESOLUTION
2.1 STOCKS		
2.2 BONDS/COMMERCIAL PAPER (issued by private corporations)		
2.3 LOANS/ CREDITS/ ADVANCES		
2.4 GOVERNMENT TREASURY BILLS		
2.5 OTHERS		

3. INVESTMENT OF CORPORATE FUNDS IN ACTIVITIES UNDER ITS SECONDARY PURPOSES (PLEASE SPECIFY:)	DATE OF BOARD RESOLUTION	DATE OF MEMBERS' RATIFICATION
3.1		
3.2		
3.3		
3.4		
3.5		

4. FUND BALANCE (in PhP) :

5. SECONDARY LICENSE/REGISTRATION/AUTHORITY/ACCREDITATION OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY

5.1 NAME OF AGENCY:	BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS	INSURANCE COMMISSION	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION	TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
5.2 DATE ISSUED:						
5.3 DATE STARTED OPERATIONS						

6. TOTAL ANNUAL COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES DURING THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR (in PhP)	7. TOTAL NO. OF OFFICERS	8. TOTAL NO. OF RANK & FILE EMPLOYEES	9. TOTAL MANPOWER COMPLEMENT

NOTE: USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

NON-STOCK CORPORATION

I, ______________________ CORPORATE SECRETARY OF ______________________
(Name) (Position) (Corporation)

DECLARE UNDER THE PENALTY OF PERJURY, THAT ALL MATTERS SET FORTH IN THIS GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET WHICH CONSISTS OF __________ (___) PAGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN GOOD FAITH, DULY VERIFIED BY ME AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE FAILURE OF THE CORPORATION TO FILE THIS GIS FOR FIVE (5) CONSECUTIVE YEARS SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS NON-OPERATION OF THE CORPORATION AND A GROUND FOR THE REVOCATION OF THE CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION. IN THIS EVENTUALITY, THE CORPORATION HEREBY WAIVES ITS RIGHT TO A HEARING FOR THE SAID REVOCATION.

DONE THIS ____________ DAY OF __________, 20____________ IN ______________________

____
(SIGNATURE)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME IN ______________________ PHILIPPINES ON ______________________ AFFIANT PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME AND EXHIBITED TO ME HIS/HER COMMUNITY TAX CERTIFICATE NO. ____________ ISSUED AT ______________________ ON ____________

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(PDI July 10 2006)

BSP: Watchdog needed to oversee securities trade

Money market dealers cry foul over allegations of price manipulation

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS is bent on getting a watchdog to oversee the secondary trading of government securities even as it has yet to prove allegations of price-fixing at the height of the recent mass sell-off of unit investment trust funds (UITFs).

"We have yet to establish that there was manipulation, but these things shouldn't even be doubted," said Nestor Espenilla Jr., BSP deputy governor for bank supervision and examination.

"One way to prevent manipulation is to have a referee who's not in the market," Espenilla told reporters Friday night, referring to a self-regulatory organization (SRO) that would assume oversight functions.

An SRO is an independent entity allowed by the Securities and Exchange Commission to govern and police its own ranks, such as the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Last May, some money market traders were said to have conspired with each other to prevent the sharp decline of bond prices at the secondary market during the UITF sell-off last May, apparently to protect the net asset value of funds held by their banks.

On Friday, Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART) issued a statement categorically denying there was price manipulation in the setting of interest rate benchmarks called the MART1—now the subject of a BSP probe.

"The procedure of coming up with MART1 involves 25 market-making financial institutions contributing live, deal-able prices, which reflect their individual views on interest rates," MART said in its statement, which it released after a board meeting. "This would make it very difficult for one or several players to manipulate the outcome of the process."

MART explained that the objective of the participating institutions was to create a credible yield curve for Philippine government securities and to provide liquidity for these debt instruments.

It also said that MART1 is the formula used to derive interest rate benchmarks using best bids instead of "done" rates in the market for various tenors.

Created in 1998, the association said MART1 had since become the most widely accepted benchmark for Philippine government securities both in the local and international markets.

It said that no less than the Bureau of Treasury had used the MART1 as an indicative interest rate benchmark in pricing past issuances of retail Treasury bonds.

"We support the investigation being conducted by the BSP regarding this matter," the statement said. "Any effort or move that will further strengthen the credibility of the MART1 interest rate benchmark is welcomed by MART."

But in its statement, MART had no comment on the BSP's proposal for an SRO to oversee secondary trading of government securities.

"We have a job to do in looking into the truth: Is there manipulation?" Espenilla said. "We have to resolve that question and take action [when] necessary. At the same time, it's the basic advocacy of the BSP to promote capital market reforms. There must be proper oversight, and one way of doing that is to have an SRO.

"The BSP can't regulate because it's not our job to regulate markets," he added. "As part of the reform process, there ought to be an SRO."

In his remark about an SRO, Espenilla explained that he was not referring to the fledgling fixed income exchange Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX), which is now applying for SRO status.

"It is really up to the banks ... This is a trading market involving the public and, ultimately, it has to be properly regulated," he stressed.

One bank treasurer said that Mart1 "became popular for lack of any other benchmarks."

"It's not perfect," the treasurer said.

He also said that MART1, which is now widely used by banks to price their lending, may co-exist with PDEX.

"As liquidity improves, the market will decide which benchmark is better," the treasurer said.

The banker also noted that, while the BSP had clipped the powers of the money market association on the heels of the price manipulation probe and had chosen to deal directly with the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the group MART would still need be needed in carrying out market reforms.

ESPENILLA

DOF wants to limit tax perks grant

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE WANTS TO program the grant of fiscal incentives—limiting that portion of the national budget for tax and duty perks to which businesses are entitled—in an effort to keep down the losses of the deficit-ridden government.

Under the proposal, the government shall have a three-year indicative expenditure program for fiscal incentives. This means that the total amount of tax- and duty-free privileges to be granted to businesses over the next three years would not exceed the program set.

The proposal to set up the fiscal incentives budget for a three-year period is consistent with the plan to amend the programming of the national budget from the current yearly period to every three years. The plan is embodied in the Fiscal Responsibility bill pending in Congress.

According to a DOF discussion paper on fiscal incentives, setting up a national budget for incentives would be one way to strictly monitor the granting of incentives and help authorities evaluate the net economic effect of the incentives.

The paper is expected to be presented to the Senate when it begins deliberations on the fiscal incentives rationalization bill.

Under the proposal, the three-year budget for fiscal incentives can be formulated by an interagency unit to be composed of the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Economic and Development Authority and the DOF.

Quoting a study by Renato Reside, an economist from the University of the Philippines, the DOF said that, on a net basis, the fiscal incentives granted by the Board of Investments in the year 2004 alone resulted in a negative economic benefit of P55.72 billion.

This means that the amount of foregone revenues due to the BOI's grant of tax- and duty-free privileges was higher than the amount of economic benefits resulting from investments using the same perks.

"There is really a need to overhaul the system of granting fiscal incentives," Reside said in a phone interview. "In the BOI's case, we actually lose, and not gain, from the incentives."

The BOI grants incentives to firms belonging to the Investment Priorities Plan. The IPP, which is revised every year, is a list of industries which the government considers a priority.

Chinese-Filipino group backs plan to amend BOT law

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF CHINESE-FILIPINO BUSINESSmen has supported plans to amend the build-operate-transfer law, saying members were prepared to invest in BOT ventures under an improved law.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI), said members were very interested in BOT projects, especially railways.

But Chua said the investors were hesitant, considering the apparently inadequate protection for them as well as the public in high-profile BOT failures.

He said businessmen were closely monitoring developments in Congress where a pending bill proposes amendments to the existing law, including a provision for the creation of a BOT Authority.

According to the sponsor of House Bill No. 5002, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, the BOT body would be chaired by the President of the Republic and would seek to promote public-private partnership in integrating resources to boost infrastructure development in road networks, ports, bridges and information technology.

Also, the creation of the agency is aimed at firming up the government's commitment and full attention in identifying critical areas of private sector participation in infrastructure development.

Salceda had said in a statement that one of the loopholes of the current BOT law was the "strong temptation" for collusion between the implementing agency and its private sector BOT partners.

"We have seen that many of the big-ticket BOT fiascos were caused by unwarranted contract changes, including sovereign guarantees where there should be none," he said.

The lawmaker said HB 5002 makes collusion more difficult because a single body like the proposed BOT Authority would oversee and regulate amendments or supplements to approved BOT contracts.

He lamented that while the Philippine BOT model was copied around the world, the country now ranks among the laggards in attracting BOT investments.

Chua said investors believe the proposed BOT Authority would be able to restore transparency and accountability to the BOT scheme.

"The FFCCCI supports the creation of the agency as long as it would streamline the process and in the end support private sector initiatives," he said.

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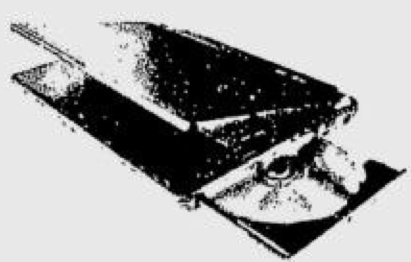

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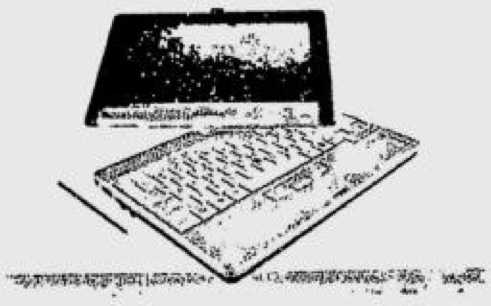

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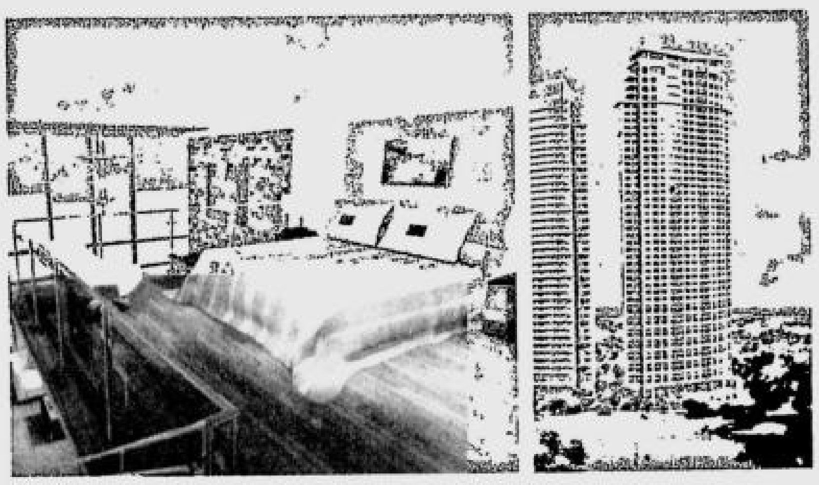

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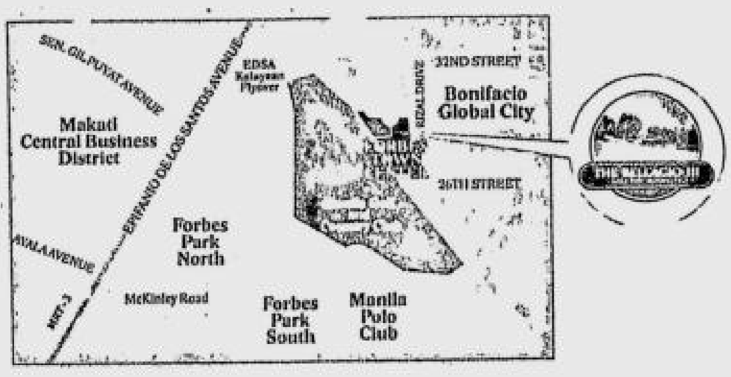
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For Announcement Purposes Only

Teamwork makes teams work

A CEO who only wants his way, should just resign

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT WAS ONLY IN THE past 10 years that corporate leaders have realized what team sports coaches have known for a long time: Great teams—not great individuals—bring great results.

Time was when having a bevy of high-flying individuals on the payroll was enough for companies to trump competition. Teams were unnecessary. One-man or -woman shows were all that mattered.

Those days, fortunately or unfortunately, are gone.

Vicente Reyes, coach of the Philippine national basketball team and chief executive of consultancy firm Coachcom.inc, tells the INQUIRER that, as companies operate from different locations—with employees spending more of their time on the field and the business model shifting to favor those that continuously innovate—having a solid team becomes more crucial to success.

It is from having that sense of belonging to a winning team—where members, no matter the position, know that they all have an important role to play in reaching a goal—that individuals can be trusted to do what is right and go the extra mile for their company, no matter where they are.

A chief executive officer who insists on doing things his way, or no way at all, will be better off signing his own resignation letter.

But sports coaches will be the first to say that building teams is far from easy, and that having a rich pool of individual talent does not guarantee chemistry.

Think Real Madrid of Spain and the yellow and blue-clad Selecao of Brazil.

Both football teams were like constellations with so many superstars on their side, yet both failed miserably to live up to expectations.

It has been years since Real Madrid won a major football championship in Europe. The Brazilian team, an early favorite in the recent World Cup tournament, with players so good it can field two world-class teams, was booted out of from the competition by a far less talent-laden French team.

The reason? As analysts say, Real Madrid and Brazil were more about individuals than teams.

Contrast their performance with the Detroit Pistons of 2004.

None of the team's top players figured in the list of top scorers, and yet it brought home the most coveted prize in professional basketball, the National Basketball Association championship.

The same is true for the Coca-Cola Tigers of 2002, coached then by Reyes, that won the All-Filipino crown.

That team made history by being the first team of the Philippine Basketball Association to win a championship on its first year, despite being the shortest in the league and being the only one with no top draft pick in its roster.

It went on and made it to all three finals the following year, winning the third conference title.

Their common denominator? Solid teamwork.

Reyes says in a briefing with the INQUIRER business staff that most teams fail to be like the Pistons or Coca-Cola because of five "dysfunctions" first discussed by Pat Lencioni: Absence of trust; fear of conflict; lack of commit-

TEAMWORK/ B2-2

REYES: Most teams fail because of five "dysfunctions" RODEL ROTONI

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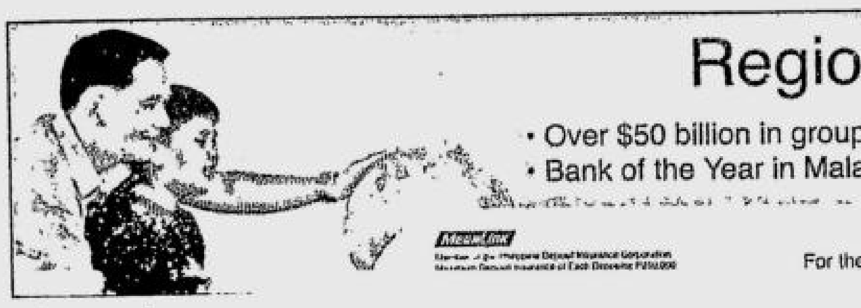
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Rick Warren and a higher purpose

MAPping THE FUTURE

Baltazar N. Endriga

Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, and former Citibank CEO Sandy Weill are people we look up to, as their driven lives have brought them to a level of earthly luxury that we desire.

There is another reason for us to admire them, however, and that is that all three have made decisions to devote large portions of their personal fortunes to charity without seeking anything in return.

Their lives are not merely driven, their actions are being shaped by a higher purpose.

This sort of transformation is the essential message of Rick Warren's "The Purpose-Driven Life."

Beyond being a self-help book, "The Purpose-Driven Life" is a spiritual guide, a life-changing and easy-to-follow daily reminder that allows us to find meaning in the daily things we do.

Replete with many humane lessons from biblical accounts, this book speaks with practical and edifying wisdom. One would have to be a hardened atheist to not be persuaded by Warren's message that each of our lives was created to have a covenant with God for a life in eternity.

Warren advises that "there is a need to fully comprehend that there is more to life than just the here and now"* that will color how one handles every relationship, task and circumstance. Suddenly, many activities, goals and even problems that seemed so important will appear trivial and unworthy of one's attention.

On the assumption that the reader believes in God, Warren posits that our lives must be lived for God's pleasure and proceeds to expound on the meaning of words that we thought we knew. For instance:

Worship: "*must not be half-hearted and hypocritical, or of empty words, insincere praise and stale prayers but with passion and commitment.

Fellowship: "*mutuality is the heart of fellowship: building of reciprocal relationships, sharing responsibilities and helping each other* you can't have fellowship without forgiveness* never hold grudges, etc."

Conflicts and their resolution: "Blessed are those who work for peace - those who seek to resolve conflict* running from a problem, pretending one doesn't exist, or being afraid to talk about it is actually cowardice *

Peacemaking is also not appeasement. Always giving in, acting like a doormat, and allowing others to always run over you is not what Jesus had in mind. He refused to back down on many issues, standing his ground firmly in the face of evil opposition."

Gossip: "Gossip is passing an information when you are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution. Listening to gossip is like stolen property and it makes you just as guilty of the crime. People who gossip to you will gossip about you. They cannot be trusted."

Warren's message is simple but elusive in the rush of the world we live in. This best-seller, ingeniously divided into 40 short (average six pages) chapters is designed to be read slowly and conscientiously - one chapter a day to allow for introspection and reaction to the possible implications of each chapter's message for one' life.

Each chapter leads the reader to ponder on a nugget of truth, quotes a bible verse to remember - and memorize - and a question to help one to think about the implications of what one has just read and hopefully imbibed.

Read with purposeful intent and a conscious effort to find meaning in what remains of each of our lives, Warren's book can only lead each of us to a life devoted to the betterment of our society, our country and the world we live in.

If we cannot be like Christ, we can at least be as generous or charitable as Bill Gates, Warren Buffett or Sandy Weill.

Dr. Rick Warren will speak on the topic "Stewardship of Influence and Affluence" during the Dinner Forum for CEOs and Business Leaders organized by the Management Association of the Philippines on July 25, Tuesday, from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La.

His wife, Kay Warren, will be the Guest Speaker at the MAP General Membership Meeting on July 24, Monday, at 12:00 noon at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. For inquiries, please call the MAP Secretariat at 751-1149 to 52.

(The author is Managing Director of the MAP Research and Development Foundation. Feedback at map@globenet.com.ph)

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When buying property, go for a developer with track record

THE PROPERTY MARKET IS GROWING 20 to 40 percent, according to third party researches, and publications are ablaze with colorful and sassy ads of property developments.

Is it a time of great buys? Or can this also be a time of disappointments that can last a lifetime?

Rex A. Mendoza, Ayala Land senior vice president for corporate sales and marketing, says that in a period of boom, the buying public's experiences can be very good. It can also turn the opposite, he says, as he cautions buyers, against over-exuberance and being taken mainly by attractive brochures and flashy websites that are full of promises but are short of assurances on the track record of its developers.

Mendoza says that even in this situation of a property upswing, it is still most prudent for buyers to put in their lifetime's savings and cast their dreams for quality homes with developers of proven track record. He states, "Due diligence of buyers in checking out developers' backgrounds is a must in choosing homes, lots, condominiums and real property in general."

An essential fact to check out is how developers fared when the real estate property was down. Did they finish their projects? If they did, were they on as time and was the quality that they promised delivered?

Their fate as corporations during the late '90s, when all of Asia reeled from economic disaster, is a good period to review, he says. In Ayala Land's case, according to Mendoza, that regional financial turmoil was hurdled with integrity.

Today, Ayala Land holds the record of finishing all its residential condominium projects lined up at that crisis period—The Regency and One, Two and Three Salcedo—while the rest halted their ongoing projects. It continues to hold sacred its commitments for timely delivery with utmost concern for customer satisfaction, adds Mendoza.

"To stress how much Ayala Land values the trust that is leveled upon it by its loyal customers, it finished the projects still in over-compliance with the structural requirements imposed by government regulations" Mendoza notes.

For the first quarter of this year, Ayala Land and its subsidiaries in residential property development have already booked and closed P2 billion worth of units which is the same level of bookings it registered for the whole of 2005, he cited.

The subsidiaries include Community Innovations, which responds to home needs of young and dynamic urban professionals, and Avida, which provides affordable homes for those who value the essentials of quality living.

A sizable portion of Ayala Land buyers these days are Filipinos migrants and overseas Filipino workers. They are Filipinos based in the US, Dubai, Middle East, London, Canada and other parts of Europe. "Unlike the boom of the nineties, the Philippine property sector is now enjoying a broader base of investors, with direct real investments coming from Filipino communities abroad," Mendoza states.

With this, the industry upswing is expected to last up to five year, he opines.

Thus, it becomes even more crucial for families of buyers, who are the ones who refer the properties available here, to be aware of the importance of choosing reputable property developers to avoid pitfalls and misfortunes with buyers' hard-earned money.

Other factors they have to look at are the developers' concern in meeting the actual needs of buyers in terms of accessibility, security and basic utilities. With Ayala Land, there are no short cuts in providing long-term security through a good road network, efficient water, drainage and sewer systems and provision of community amenities.

Unwittingly, as many buyers can be visually lured by fancy designs that border on fantasy, it is best to take a few steps back to check whether the designs of subdivisions and individual units actually meld with function. "At Ayala Land, planning is a vital process to ensure that property designs harmonize with function." Mendoza stresses.

At the same time, it is also noteworthy that Ayala Land communities flourish, as they are near good schools, transport networks, churches, commercial establishments, and leisure and recreational facilities. "With all these factors in place, it should not be surprising why the value of Ayala Land properties continue to increase over time," he adds.

Against the backdrop of achievements through the years, Ayala Land's track record soars ahead.

It has pooled knowledge in a diverse range of successful endeavors – from the building and continuous enhancement of the premier financial district in Makati, to the introduction of innovative commercial centers with distinctive entertainment appeals.

This record stretches further to the building of office and residential landmarks, both high-rise and horizontal, and to the enrichment of residential offerings for many people in many parts of the country.

"Ayala Land's achievements are anchored on people's trust and in no way does it compromise this," Mendoza states.

Not just repairs at this computer shop

MEILY Estorque

MEILY ESTORQUE IS NOT your average computer repair shop owner.

His shop is not littered with PC terminals laid open for repair work, with computer parts and accessories on the side. Instead, his shop in Dasmariñas, Cavite, looks more like a Smart Bro outlet, painted neatly in blue with a streamer of Smart's wireless broadband service displayed prominently.

That's because this 33-year-old Industrial Education graduate also sells Smart Bro. This is on top of Smart Load, which his wife, Maria Vitha, started selling in 2003.

He is one of hundreds of Smart retailers who will have a chance to start Internet shops via Barangay Bro, a livelihood program built around Smart Bro and offered by Smart Communications Inc. (Smart).

To Meily, this is a dream come true. His interest in electronics had led him to work for a computer supplier instead of going the route of Industrial Education graduates and teaching. The troubleshooting and repair skills that he learned on the job was crucial in his decision to open a small computer repair shop.

Now, he gets to branch out into the Internet business. With just P2,600, which he pays monthly for 12 months, he gets a brand new personal computer with licensed Microsoft operating system plus Internet connectivity via Smart Bro.

Smart Bro is Smart's wireless broadband service. It is a high-speed broadband Internet connection that uses the nationwide cellular network of Smart to wirelessly deliver Internet service to a subscriber's PC. Currently available to Smart subscribers at P999 a month, Smart Bro is up to seven times faster than dial-up, or 384kbps.

Meily qualifies for Barangay Bro since his monthly Smart Load sales average P20,000. Hence, with Smart Bro and a PC, he can set up shop at his computer repair shop and start charging customers by the hour for Internet surfing, online gaming, network gaming and Microsoft Office use. He can also start charging for printing services.

The P2,600 monthly plan covers not only Smart Bro connectivity and computer hardware, but also installation of equipment like outdoor unit antenna, marketing support like flyers and banners, welcome kit and troubleshooting guidelines as well as other technical support like a hotline for broadband/connection problems.

A Smart Bro retailer and an avid user, Meily knows the value of fast and reliable wireless connectivity since he uses the Internet to communicate with his brother in the US via e-mail, instant messaging or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

His kids, Christian David and Christopher John, ages 4 and 2 respectively, are also computer literate, already surfing the Internet for popular children's sites like Disney.

Meily thanks Smart which, he said, has been a good economic benefactor to his family, starting with the e-load business in 2003.

"When I noticed that my wife, who was selling Smart Load, was matching what I was earning in a Makati City-based office job, I decided to give the e-load business a closer look," he said.

He gave up his job, went into computer repair and at the same time widened their Smart Load clientele by networking with old friends, visiting them in their offices and selling to their friends in turn. He also approached companies at the nearby First Cavite Industrial Estate (FCIE) and at the market, where his store is located.

"I realized that my capital was not just money, but friends," he said.

Meily said that initial earnings averaged P30,000 a month, but that has since settled at P22,000 a month now that there are more Smart retailers eating up the market.

That's why he appreciates new services like Smart Bro, which give him an opportunity to earn additional income. Meily is one of Smart's top Smart Bro retailers in southeast Luzon, averaging 30 Smart Bro activations a month.

A fast learner, Meily read up on Smart Bro, attended a seminar to fully understand how the technology works then quickly gathered a "marketing team" of about 15 friends.

"We went door-to-door, visiting subdivisions and offices to distribute flyers about Smart Bro. We considered it good enough if we got 50 applications from 1,000 flyers that we sent out," he said.

Meily now counts some 200 members among his "marketing team."

On his own, he also printed WiFi shirts and stickers for his service jeep and van, put up a billboard and gave his store a new look with the Smart Bro streamer prominently displayed.

"Aside from earning from the activations, I get to introduce wireless broadband into the lives of people who need connectivity. *Marami kasing* families *ng* OFWs *dito sa* south Luzon," he said.

He is excited that Smart Bro can be made available to more people, now that Smart has made it easier for qualified retailers like him to offer the product themselves via Barangay Bro.

"I didn't end up teaching as my course dictated, but I can say that I still promoted learning in my own way," he said.

Teamwork makes teams work

From page B2-1

ment; avoidance of accountability, and inattention to results.

There is an absence of trust when the members are not willing to work with each other because they fear that their teammate will stab them in the back, so to speak, and take all the credit for group effort.

And because there is that lack of trust, team members fail to engage in "production conflict," which allows them to freely air their contrasting views without fear of personal recriminations.

Opposite of production conflict is "artificial harmony" where team members seem to get along on the surface, or blindly agree to their superiors' views, hiding what they really feel in their hearts.

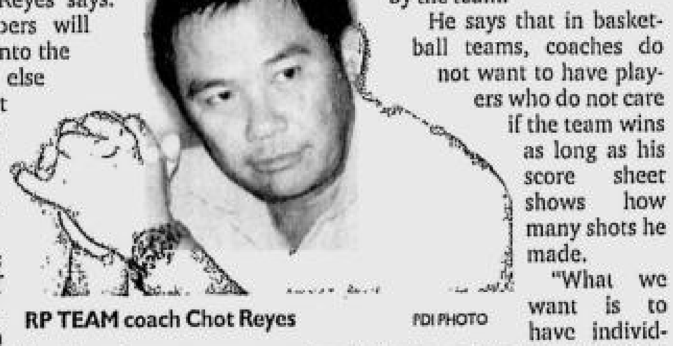
"Rather than have a lively debate, members will rather not talk to preserve that artificial harmony," Reyes explains.

This also means that the members will just go through the motions of doing what the others say they should, without really buying into the idea or goal. Thus, they will not give their all to make sure that the goal is accomplished.

Reyes says this is where the lack of commitment comes in.

"One can never commit to something he does not believe in," Reyes says. "Team members will have to buy into the project or else they will just go through the motions of the job."

The fourth dysfunction of a team is avoidance of accountability, which refers to that behavior where no member wants to step up and take responsibility for their actions. They will rather pass the buck.



RP TEAM coach Chot Reyes

PDI PHOTO

Again, this stems from lack of commitment to a task.

Finally, there's the inattention to results.

Reyes says there are few things worse than having team members who are more focused on their own individual performance, without caring for the results sought by the team.

He says that in basketball teams, coaches do not want to have players who do not care if the team wins as long as his score sheet shows how many shots he made.

"What we want is to have individuals out for the entire team's welfare, not just their own," he says.

Most teams, whether in sports or in the corporate world, suffer from any one or all of these dysfunctions that hinder them from unleashing their potential.

But there are ways to start getting out of the rut, Reyes says, and it starts from building a high level of trust. Without it, nothing else will be achieved.

He also emphasizes the big role that the team leader will play in fostering a relationship built on trust.

"People do what people see, so if they see that their leaders are trustworthy and willing to work with the team, they will be influenced to be the same," Reyes says.

He says the mold that created the command and control type of CEO or team leader, has long been broken. It just does not work anymore.

"People these days do not want to be handled or told what to do, but they do want to be motivated and inspired," he says.

Work on that, and a leader should be on his way to building a formidable team.

Franchising expo set on July 14 -16

ENTREPRENEURS ARE EXPECTED TO flock to the 14th Philippine International franchise Conference and Expo, sponsored by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) to be held at the World Trade Center on July 14-16.

As a way to educate entrepreneurs on franchising, Francorp Philippines will spearhead a two-fold seminar on July 15 dubbed as "The A to Z of Buying Franchise" (8:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn) and "How to Franchise your Business" (1 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Samie Lim, PFA chair Emeritus and "father of franchising," explained the main goal of the "How to Franchise your Business" seminar is to help the businesses multiply through franchising.

For inquiries, you may call 638-3142/49/50; or 910-6544/45; or text 0917-8355530 and 0920-9610810.

Can't afford an office? Lease one

IF YOU ARE AN ENTREPRENEUR TODAY and you want to grow a business with huge profit potential or build one at par with top industry competitors, you have to be better prepared than the rest.

Emerging solutions

Worldnet Business Center (WBC) managing director Jack Wong said the priority goal for setting up young and fresh businesses today is to move into fully functional offices, at short notice, with potential for "overnight" expansion without the relocating requirements.

WBC is a Filipino-owned company engaged in leasing ready-to-use and fully equipped serviced offices.

Wong explained that new businesses today require increased mobility on a wider scale with enhanced service features, but, on an efficient cost. Some businesses, he said, will establish themselves first in more practical ways, then move to a more permanent ground as they come to terms with the realities of their business later on.

He said more offshore companies today are locating in this type of office accommodations to extend their office operations in various growth areas worldwide.

Wong explained that outsourcing the property requirements to independent operators proves more practical since putting up an office requires high capital outlay. It is also more efficient, he said, since one doesn't need to deal anymore with office administration issues but remain focused on the core business.

Given the growing demand of today's businesses, the search for innovation and efficiency has led to the rise of "alternative workplaces," also called offices on-demand, serviced office, business centers, virtual offices or simply instant offices, added Wong.

Office accommodations that offer instantaneous availability are starting to attract many businesses. In direct contrast to conventional offices, Wong explained that instant offices have more value-added benefits to offer, aside from flexibility. They also guarantee higher degrees of affordability that will best fit even for the startup businesses and SMEs in Metro Manila, he said.

Yardstick for a good serviced office

A serviced office is a commercial accommodation equipped with basic office utilities including housekeeping and maintenance. Other support services are included in the rent or paid independently, also known as pay-as-used system. The office space provided can be occupied for shorter lease or even for hourly rates.

Compared to a traditional office setup, serviced office is fully furnished with tables and chairs, telephone, fax, mailbox, e-mail, courier, Internet connection or other IT support services. It also comes with an array of common facilities that can be shared among all tenants like the conference and meeting facilities, pantry or coffee area. A common reception area is also provided along with a competent receptionist.

Typically, a WBC serviced office operation allows a range of office sizes that can accommodate from one person up to 10 persons in one room. It is also possible to take a number of adjoining offices together to accommodate more persons. The office spaces can take the form of modular cubicles, full office room or virtual office setup.

Virtual office setup gives one a legitimate business identity with the use of a prestigious business address as one's own registered office and correspondence address. It serves like a long-distance office, where one need not be physically present but would still have access to its facilities and support services through modern information and communications equipment or technology.

Business centers provide the same physical amenities and services of an office such as work desks, fax machines, and computers, among others, but, only for a day or hourly rates.

How does the cost of a serviced office compare with renting a conventional office? There is a broad spectrum of serviced offices in the market today that range from providing the bare basics, up to offering high-end technology and equipment, along with a complete management team and highly personalized service.

Find your advantage at WBC

Erick Ordonez, WBC operations manager, said they cater primarily to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), professionals and service consultants who require virtual offices or full office space accommodations. Situated in the prime Makati district, it offers young and infant businesses the proximity to the booming opportunities in the area, Ordonez added.

WBC has a total of eight modular workstations and 20 elegantly furnished office rooms. The average working area is anywhere from 3.6 sq.m. for a modular cubicle to a spacious 9 sq.m. for a furnished room.

Monthly lease rates range from as low as P1,200 for virtual office setup and about P8,500 for full office room setup.

WBC offers three flexible lease options to choose from: virtual office setup, modular/cubicle workstation setup, and full office room setup. Exclusive restrooms are also available in addition to common area restrooms.

Ordonez identified other in-house professional services accessible within office reach for business support. They are available on a per-project basis or retainer basis, which include tax consultancy, accounting and bookkeeping, management advisory, business registration, legal services, real estate, architectural design and general construction, interior design, desktop publishing, customized business application, website development and design, PC preventive maintenance, insurance and finance planning, import/export, business research, secretarial and courier services.

Banking on emotions to market its products

By Amy R. Remo

WINNING THE HEARTS OF ADULTS and children for generations, Walt Disney Co. is banking on this inherent emotional affinity to market its products worldwide.

After all, nearly every kid in the world knows all about the Mickey and Minnie Mouse tandem, the Disney princesses (Cinderella, Snow White, Belle, etc.), as well as Winnie the Pooh and his friends from the Hundred Acre Wood.

And this emotional factor of the Disney brand plays largely in the early successes of the 10-month-old Hong Kong Disneyland, given its increasing attendance and occupancy levels.

Josh D' Amaro, Disney's VP for sales and travel trade marketing, said that with Hong Kong Disneyland, his team focuses mainly on understanding the Asian markets: what works and what doesn't, what are the barriers and what other creative ideas they can employ.

"It's not a one-size-fits-all strategy," said D'Amaro, who was in Manila recently. "Adjustments have to be made in each market."

Disney parks, for instance, are customized for the market it serves.

"Explore the park and it feels different in each place, be it in Tokyo, California or Hong Kong," he added.

However, he said, it's too early for the company to make drastic changes in its strategies in order to specifically cater to each market. Such moves, he said, will have to come in later.

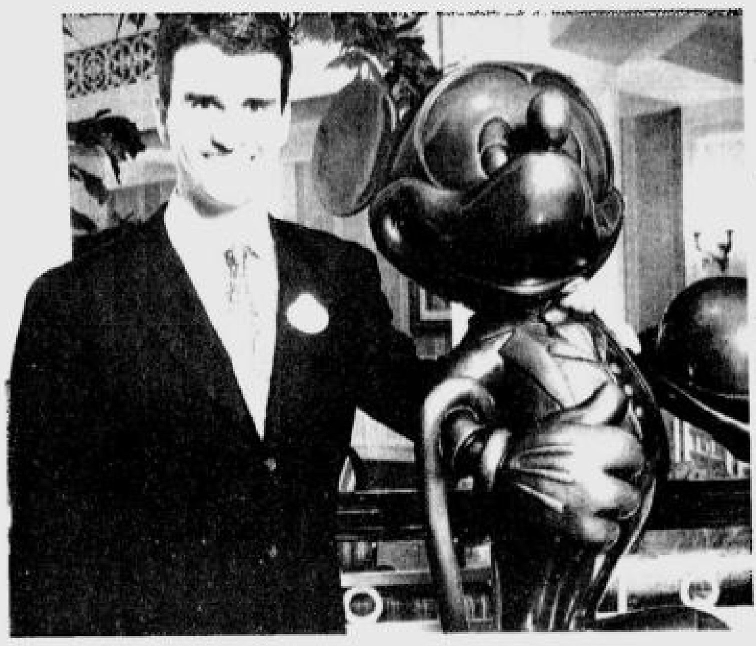
Promotional efforts

D'Amaro explained that seasonality is a huge factor in assessing how to promote the park.

Each country in Asia has different national holidays, ways of booking for travel, school year calendar, travel habits and so on.

In Southern China for instance, people would often come down from the borders by themselves rather than book for a travel. Oftentimes, they would arrive in Hong Kong by midday, giving them only half a day to spend in the park.

"We came up with a promo called the 'Stay and Play for 2 days' to give a second-day incentive for guests," explained D'Amaro.


JOSH D' Amaro

By booking at the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel or Hollywood Hotel, guests who buy a ticket to visit the park on the first day will get the next day for free, plus breakfast. This promo runs from May 13 to Sept. 30, 2006.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is considered as one of Disney's biggest and most important markets given the country's inherent affinity for anything Disney.

"Here in the Philippines, we found out that travel trade (ticketing and travel agencies) has a bigger role to play in terms of booking for airline tickets, tours and hotel accommodations," said D'Amaro.

If in the US, customers normally book directly, mostly through the Internet, Filipinos meanwhile book mainly by travel agents. Only recently have Filipinos started to book via the Internet.

"Seeing the value of these agents, we pour in a lot of effort in establishing trust with the travel trade groups," said D' Amaro.

Disney has formed tie-ups with local retail agents such as airlines, travel agents and other forms of distribution network to help him and his team understand the needs and whims of the local market.

According to D'Amaro, these groups will help them develop creative and effective strategies to localize their efforts as they will be able to provide insights in the Filipino way of traveling.

D'Amaro said they want to make each customer's Disney experience worth their every while and centavo from the booking process and until they leave the park.

In fact, Hong Kong Disneyland houses its own automated call center to easily address any queries or to assist customers in placing reservations. Tickets can also be reserved and purchased online (www.hongkongdisneyland.com).

Value as edge

D' Amaro reiterated that their competitive edge lies in the product itself and the value of the Disney brand.

"We don't want to compete in terms of pricing because that's not what our brand is all about," said D' Amaro.

He added that their products demonstrate the value of the Disney brand and that "magical" experience one feels every time he or she goes to a Disney park.

"We make sure our parks are always fresh and that they offer something new. Markets continue to evolve and we have to adjust to those changes," explained D' Amaro.

This July, Hong Kong Disneyland will open three new attractions namely the Stitch Encounter, UFO (Unbelievably Fun Objects) Zone and Autopia.

D'Amaro said they are expecting guest volume to reach 5.6 million, after one year in operations.

MOVEMENTS

Citibank Savings new president

CITIBANK SAVINGS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY C. CHOA AS PRESIDENT. Citibank Savings is a member of Citigroup and an affiliate of Citibank N.A., the country's largest foreign bank.

Choa joined Citibank N.A. in 1994 and has held key positions including branch manager of Makati, its flagship retail branch in the country, and investments business head for the global consumer group. Prior to his appointment as Citibank Savings president, Choa was president of Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Inc.

In his new assignment, Choa will oversee 36 retail branches located in key areas in Metro Manila, North and South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Aside from the challenge of growing the Citibank Savings franchise, Choa will be leading an experienced team to develop and offer financial products and services targeting the mass affluent.

J&J's new executive appointments

Grace del Rosario-Castaño was appointed president of the Asean group of companies and the head of the Asean management board effective March 1. Castaño becomes the second Filipino head of the regional organization responsible for the growing Johnson & Johnson sales and marketing team covering Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Castaño joined Johnson & Johnson in 1990 and later became the general manager of Johnson & Johnson Indonesia in 2000. She assumed the position of president and managing director of Johnson & Johnson (Philippines) Inc. in 2002.

Zinnia S. Rivera was also named president and managing director of Johnson & Johnson (Philippines) Inc. effective March 1. Significantly, Rivera becomes the 13th head of the local company since it was incorporated in the Philippines in 1956. She is also the second Filipina to head the marketing-oriented company with a product portfolio which includes market leading brands Johnson's baby products, Modess sanitary napkins, Carefree pantyshields and wash, Neutrogena, Clean and Clear and Johnson's pure essentials. Rivera was the immediate vice president of the Johnson & Johnson regional research and development before this appointment.

Makati Shangri-La appoints new resident manager

MAKATI Shangri-La announces the appointment of Jeremy Richard Aniere as the hotel's resident manager.

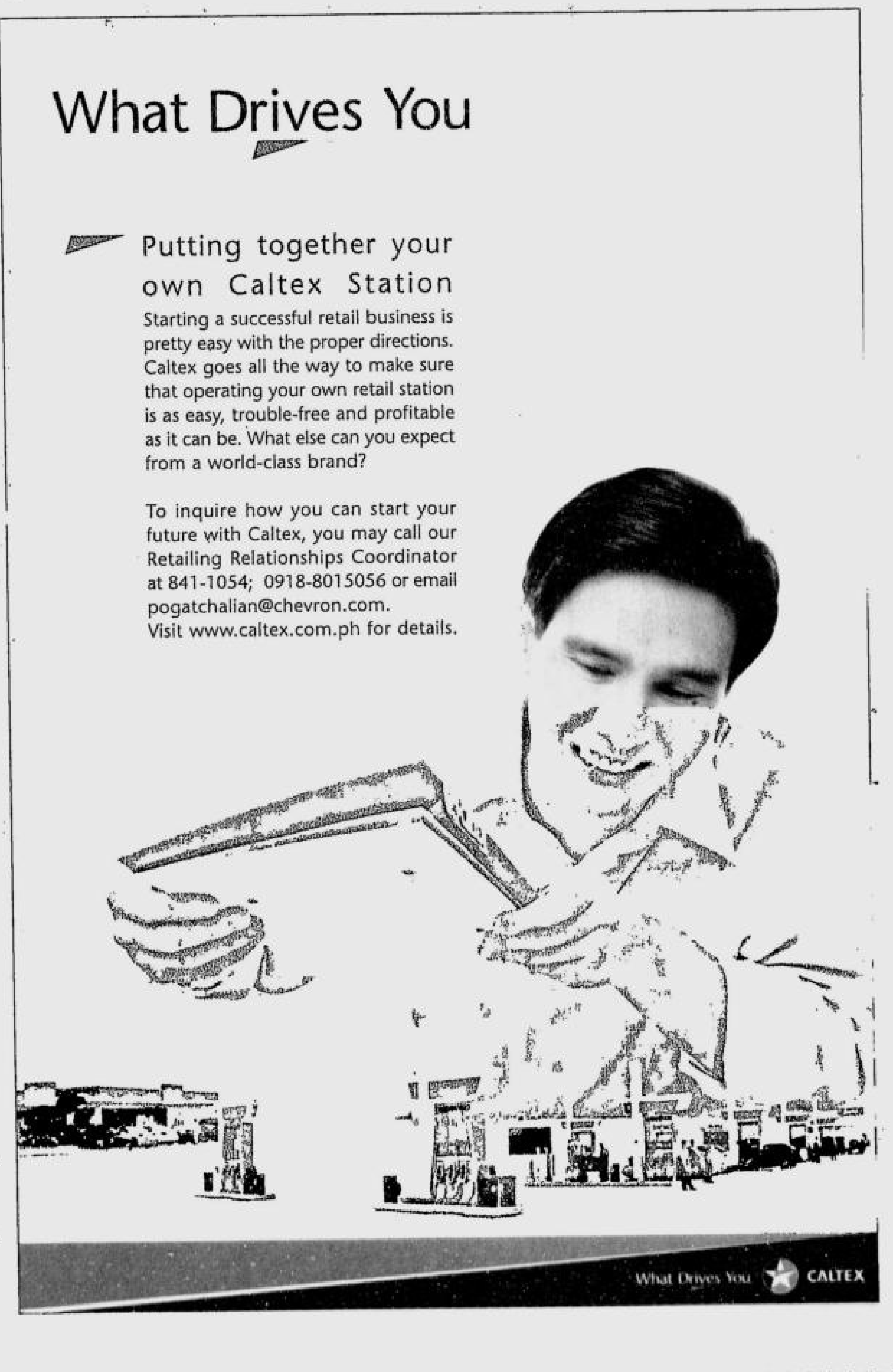
Aniere is no stranger to the Shangri-La culture as he was previously employed at Shangri-La Pudong as the executive assistant manager-food and beveage. He possesses a solid background in food and beverage with extensive experience in the hospitality industry. His new role is to oversee all managerial aspects of operational functions and will assist the hotel's general manager in strategic business activities.

P&A welcomes new audit partners

PUBLIC accounting firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A) announced recently the elevation of Mallene Bisnar and Ramilito Nañola to partner effective July 1.

In addition to her client-servicing responsibilities, Bisnar was head of the firm's training group for a number of years. She has been in public accounting since she started her professional career in 1991 and has gained wide-ranging experience in the audit of local and multinational companies in various industries, including entertainment, real estate development, manufacturing and trading. She worked for a year and a half with the New York office of a leading international accounting firm, where she specialized in the audit of major real estate companies in the United States. She obtained her bachelor's degree in accountancy, cum laude, from the University of the East.

Nañola, director-in-charge of P&A's Cebu and Davao offices, has been in public accounting since 1990, when he joined the firm. He has extensive experience in the audit of local and multinational companies in various industries, such as banking and finance, manufacturing, agriculture, construction, trading and real estate. He is the charter president of the Davao chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors-Philippines. A graduate of Notre Dame University in Cotabato City, he is the 2005 recipient of the Primus Award, P&A's highest recognition of individual excellence.



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What's in a name?

Corporate Securities Info

Raul Palabrica

PLENTY, IF FINANCIAL CONGLOMERATE Citigroup and its banking subsidiary Citibank N.A. were to be asked.

Last week, the two companies filed an action in court to stop CitisecOnline and Citisecurities, both stock brokers, from using the word "citi" in their trademarks.

The petition comes on the heels of CitisecOnline's plan to hold its initial public offering this month.

Simply stated, the issue in this case is whether the word "citi" that appears in the broker companies' corporate name is deceptively similar to that of Citigroups' registered trademarks.

The dispute is not surprising. Companies often go to great lengths, and incur a lot of expenses in the process, to protect their corporate names from being appropriated by third parties.

Like human beings, corporations consider their name the sweetest word in the world.

Deceptive

The rule on the use of names by corporations is clearly spelled out in the Corporation Code.

Corporations cannot use names that are identical or deceptively or confusingly similar to that of an existing corporation, or are protected by law, or are patently deceptive, confusing or contrary to existing law.

The ban is aimed at preventing the public from being confused or misled by companies that have identical or similar names.

For companies that have gained a lot of goodwill from their names, the unauthorized use of their identification by other companies constitutes unfair competition.

Thus, in one case, the Supreme Court affirmed an order of the Securities and Exchange Commission directing "Universal Mills Corporation" to change its name because it was confusingly and deceptively similar to that of "Universal Textile Mills, Inc." which was registered earlier.

In another instance, the name "Tropiflora, Inc." was disallowed because it was confusingly similar to that of a previously registered corporation called "Tropical Flora (Philippines)."

Generic

But that rule was not applied to the word "Lyceum" which some educational institutions in the provinces use as part of their corporate name.

The petition of Lyceum of the Philippines, a school founded by the Laurel family, to stop other schools from using the word "Lyceum" to identify themselves was denied by the highest tribunal.

The court ruled that the subject word has a generic meaning, i.e., a school or institution of learning which traces its roots to ancient Grecian period.

Besides, there is no confusion in identity because the other schools that use that word have added a geographic name to it, such as, Lyceum of Aparri and Western Pangasinan Lyceum.

The SEC has laid down some guidelines on what words can and cannot be used in corporate names.

For example, if a proposed name is similar to that of a registered business entity, that name should contain at least one distinctive word that is different from that already registered.

The name of an internationally known foreign corporation or one similar to it cannot be appropriated by a local corporation without the consent of the former.

If the full name of a person forms part of the corporate name, the consent of that person or, if he is already dead, his heirs has to be obtained first before the use of the name can be allowed.

Specific names

Also, certain words or phrases are not available for general use.

Thus, the words "Finance," "Bank," "Building and Loan Association," "Rural Bank, "Investment" or words of similar meaning are not allowed for companies that are not engaged in financing, banking or investment, as the case may be.

The emblem, official seal and name of the United Nations, both in its full or abbreviated form, cannot be used for commercial or business purposes.

The words "Asean," Calabarzon" and "Philippines 2000" are not permitted to form part of the corporate name of private companies.

If a corporation wants to add the word "National" in its name, it has to come up with good reasons to justify its request; otherwise the SEC will disapprove it.

The SEC is wary that the subject word may give the impression to the public that the corporation is either a government agency or a government-owned or -controlled corporation.

Interestingly, in 1975, then President Marcos issued a decree stating that all banks, other than the Philippine National Bank and those banks whose name already includes the word "National," are barred from using that word.

Going back to the "citi" case, unless the contending parties are able to enter into an amicable settlement, this case (like many other similar incidents in the past) is expected to go all the way up to the Supreme Court. *(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph>.)*

Know how to's of realty installment sales

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS, PROSPECTIVE home buyers, investors and real estate dealers are invited to attend a complete course on "Realty Installment Sales" that will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate on July 17, 1:30 to 6:00 PM at the Second Floor, Max's Rest., Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Topics include installment sales as a marketing technique; the various aspect of installment sale; HLURB and other rules on installment sales; the financial aspect of installment sales. Call at 681-0928 or 0916-426-9174.

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Portrait of a politician as a farmer

How one created a model farm from a patch of scraggy land

By Gabriel Hidalgo Bordado
Contributor

ACCORDING TO FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence; people who are hungry and out of job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made of. For Ulysses Eul Salvino, two-term municipal councilor of San Lorenzo Ruiz, a small farming community 12 kilometers south of Daet, Camarines Norte, resolutions and ordinances are not enough.

Not that he loathes legislative work (he, in fact, authored several landmark measures addressing the concerns of various sectors) but the young councilor just cannot stand the sight of idle lands. It's a pity that thousands starve in our country despite the presence of arable but idle lands. We just need to till these lands and we will never be hungry, the councilor averred.

Carving a model farm

Since 1994, when Eul graduated from the Camarines Sur State Agricultural College (CSSAC), he has been tilling his mother's one-hectare farm lot in San Lorenzo Ruiz. Far from being an ideal site, the farm with its slopes and hilly areas, would always pose as a challenge, even for somebody with a background in agriculture. But Eul was grimly determined to transform it into something productive, a farmer's haven, to send a clear signal to his townmates that farming, done the right way, could lead to food security and bring some tidy profits on the side.

It was, of course, tough at the outset. People were laughing behind Eul's back. For how could you convince them that a patch of scraggy land dotted by stunted coconut trees and overrun by weeds and cogonal growth would be worth tilling.

SALVINO devised a system ensuring year round egg production while wife Ningning (inset), shows off robust snap beans production in the vegetable section of their farm.

But Eul, barely in his 20s then, had clear cut "ideas on how to nurture his mother's nondescript lot into full productivity". His training at CSSAC served him well, allowing him to explore principles in horticulture, poultry and livestock raising, agronomy and even agricultural engineering. He also experimented with integrated farming systems and before long, he was ready to harvest the fruits of his labor making his detractors literally bite the dust of their idle lands. The Department of Agriculture (DA) recognized Eul's achievements by conferring on him the Outstanding Young Farmers award during its 77th anniversary.

The DA souvenir program described Eul's early struggles: By his own hands, Ulysses carved, leveled and filled contours of his sparsely planted coconut farmland according to his design based on the crops he intended to plant, and the animals and fishes he aimed to raise.

Sustaining the gains

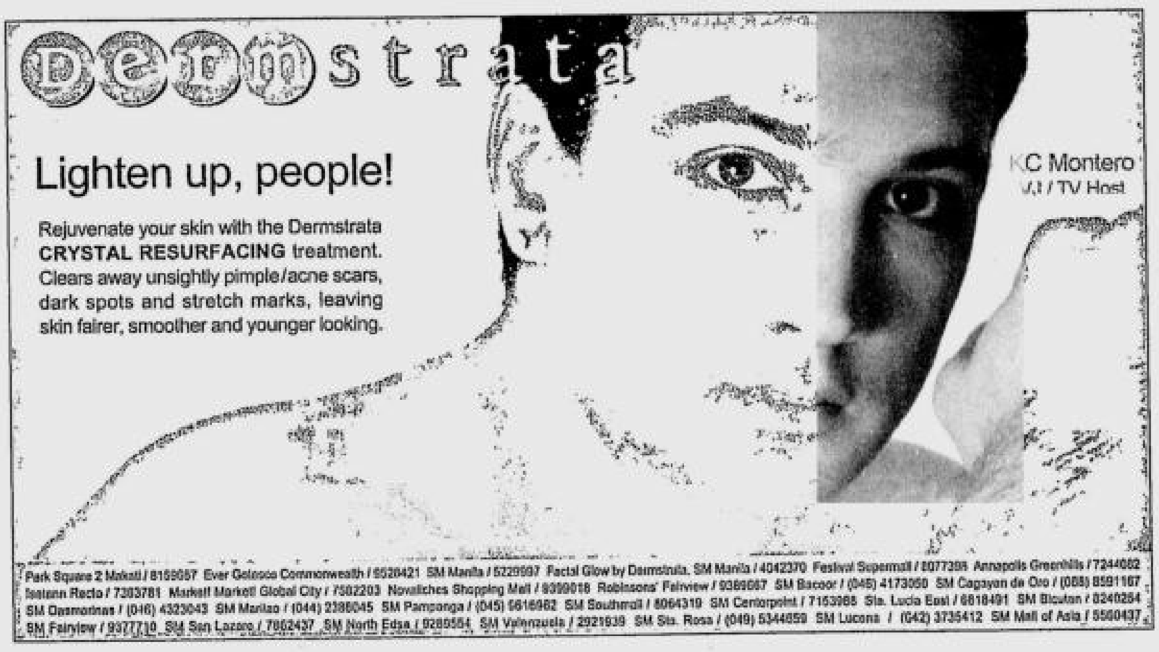
Eul sustained the gains and breakthroughs he had made and doggedly pursued his vision of establishing a model farm, showcasing what technology and a little help from government institutions could do to put what used to be an abstraction (economic security) in the realm of the doable. In 2001, Eul ran for the local council. His campaign was anchored on his veritable gospel of productivity and food security. And the people of San Lorenzo Ruiz responded by catapulting him to a second term. He also married in 2003 his college sweetheart Josefina Ningning Lomenario, who shares with him the passion for farming.

Never ever resting on his laurels, Eul, with the full backing of his wife, continues to innovate and upgrade his farm. With corn now as his main crop, Eul has ventured into poultry production with some 1,000 broilers and 700 layers under his care. To ensure a constant supply of eggs even during the rainy season, Eul ingenuously devised a system using tarpaulin and plastic sheets to stabilize the temperature in the coops sheltering the layers.

Breaking new grounds

Optimizing the use of every available space in his farm, Eul is also into livestock raising (and pasture development), vegetable growing (pechay, tomatoes, eggplants, snapbeans, peanuts and cucumber are the mainstays) and fishpond development. His rambutan and citrus trees, which grow well under the coconut palms, bear abundant fruits during their respective seasons. Nothing is wasted in Eul's farm " even the manure (used as fertilizers) and the lowly weeds (transformed into soft brooms)."

Councilor Salvino has, for all intents and purposes, made his point: that food security is good politics. (The author is the Vice Mayor of Naga City in Bicol.)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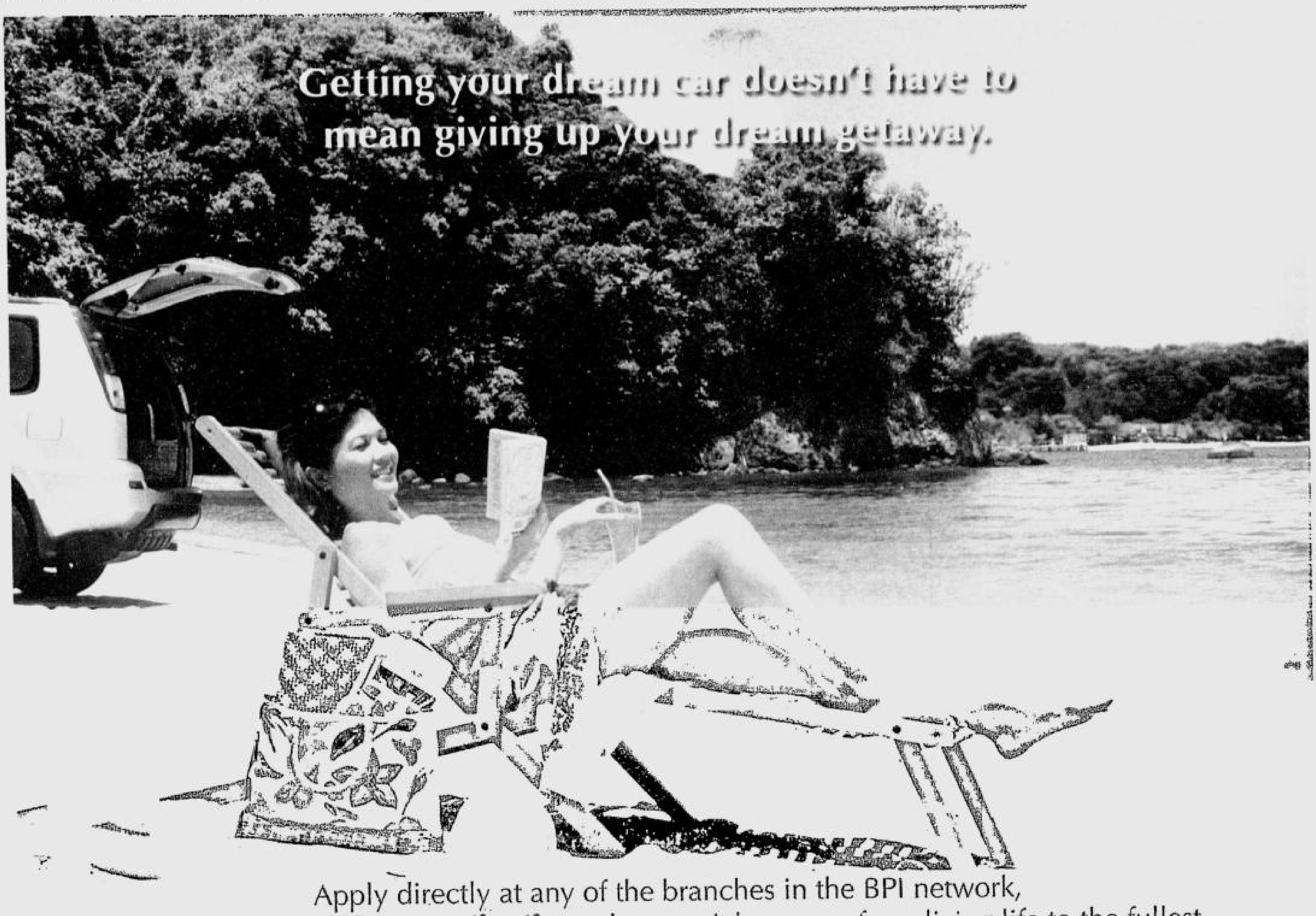
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Drive your Dream

IT certification turns college dropout into a CEO

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

THE BOOMING IT INDUSTRY IN THE Philippines is creating more jobs for Filipino college graduates. In particular, the business process outsourcing companies, largely composed of call center operators, are looking for 500,000 new employees in the next four years. This demand is enticing more students to aim for a seat in a call center or a BPO business, especially with promises of big paychecks.

However, there are a few Filipino students who look at the IT industry in a long-term and much more lucrative perspective. Instead of just being a paid employee for a company, why not own the company instead?

Take for example Ma-an Madrasto, a college dropout by 17 who later became an entrepreneur, owning a web development company by the time she turned 26. Her company, Infoteq Business Solutions Services (www.infoteq-online.com), was established in September 2005 and is now handling several projects, including the website of the Philippine Constructors Association (www.philconstruct.com).

Madrasto had her first encounter with the Internet in the mid-1990s when the Philippines got connected to the Internet. Prior to that, Madrasto had no interest with the computer and thought of it as just a big geeky box.

"Basically I thought the computer was boring until I discovered the Internet. We didn't have a computer at home so I'd be at the Internet café the whole day. I didn't go to school. I'd just click on free web builders, and soon learned programming basics on my own. Everybody thought it was cool when I distributed business cards with my pager number, e-mail address and my own website," Madrasto said.

It was then when she realized that the Internet was a major business arena where she could convert her interests into real money.

But Madrasto's entrepreneurial beginnings were not without its problems and her parents were not as enthusiastic about her dropping out of school and pursuing her goals of becoming a web developer. She constantly debated with her parents; her vision against their beliefs that a college education was necessary. Eventually, her parents conceded and let her build her business.

"It was easy money, since at the time there were only a few people who could develop websites. My projects back in 1996 had a maximum of two to three pages and I charged P1,000 per page," Madrasto said.

The Philippine Constructors Association, where her father worked, was one of her first clients. She managed the group's website for P100 per hour. The PCA has been her client ever since.

Incidentally, Madrasto realized that she had to get IT certification if she were to expand her business. In one incident, a multinational company passed on an attractive contract to someone else when they found out that Madrasto did not have the proper IT credentials.

"I realized the real value of education when I was already in business. That was a P100,000 contract and I could have finished it in two weeks," she said.

That setback led her to enroll at the Informatics Computer Institute where she finished two modules of the Certified Internet Professional Program. Afterwards, she officially put up Infoteq Web Solutions, her first company.

She later pursued a diploma in studies, also at Informatics. Having learned more about web development, Madrasto redeveloped Infoteq Web Solutions into Infoteq Business Solutions that provided more comprehensive web services such as advertising, branding, system security consulting, graphics and multimedia design.

The company recently bagged the contract to conduct training modules of the Primavera Project Planner, a project monitoring software, as well as the marketing franchise of Live On Visual Communication System, a subscription-based Japanese video conferencing solution.

"We are into fully customizable solutions because we want to adjust to clients' needs. That's why we are positioning Infoteq Business Solutions and Services as the one-stop shop for all your business needs," Madrasto said.

Just last May, Madrasto finally did what her parents had always wished for—to graduate. She took her oath along with other members of Informatics class 2006.

"I wasn't even planning to join the graduation ceremonies, but then my dad told me that when I grow old, maybe I'd regret missing out on this important event," she said.

Having earned her diploma, Madrasto is now more focused on her business and is urging students to explore entrepreneurship rather than just becoming an employee. On the one hand, she would not recommend being a college dropout, while on the other hand, she suggests that students take up a course that fit their goals.

'Serious' online gamers increasing in RP

Alexander Villafania
Contributor

"DEMPZ" IS A FRESHMAN FROM Don Bosco Technical Institute in Makati City. He usually plays RAN Online at the Extreme Gaming Grounds in Glorietta with several friends, some of whom play other games. An avid gamer, Dempz spends nearly two hours playing RAN at the game shop but he frequently plays at home:

"I play an average of two hours per day, three during weekends," he says.

But Dempz plays not only RAN. Dempz claims to have played nearly all of the serious games released so far. Not including Ragnarok or its predecessor, Ozworld, he's played MU Online, Tantra, Khan and RF Online.

"I've barely played casual games because they don't give me as much thrill playing with or against other people online," said Dempz. "Besides, I could meet up with classmates or friends through online games even when I'm at home."

SCREENSHOT from "RAN Online," the country's fastest-rising online game. The male character here is shown proposing marriage to a female character. Incidentally, she said "Yes," and they are getting married sometime September when Episode 2 of RAN is released. Congratulations.

Dempz is just one of an estimated one million online gamers who have played serious online games. Three years since the first online game came to the Philippines, nearly a dozen companies have introduced their own game so far, expecting to catch the wave of potential business that these would bring. Because of the size of the Philippine market, some of these online game distributors have divided the market into "casual" gamers and "serious" gamers. But it is to the latter where the bulk of the market belongs.

According to research firm IDC, the serious gaming community could grow bigger in the coming years. Most of the $15.5 million revenues from the Philippine online game business came from the serious games, which is loosely described as hack-and-slash role-playing games. Serious games have their own game economies such as collecting virtual currencies, weapons, armor and mystical items that improve a character's performance.

But who is really on top of the serious game industry? There are several claims from the online game distributors.

Level-Up!, the first to introduce online games in the Philippines, claims that its RF Online, introduced last year, already has 500,000 registered players. Level-Up! Chief Operating Officer Sheila Paul said they monitor an average of 6,000 concurrent users (number of players playing at a given time), peaking to 8,000.

RAN Online, distributed by E-Games, claims to have 700,000 registered players, with average concurrent users at 15,000, peaking at 20,000 concurrent users. E-Games COO Steve Tsao said that, in RAN, there are rare instances of "bots" (automated application that plays a game without human intervention).

"We absolutely discourage playing of bots because they take away the essence of playing. And for the record, what the other game distributors have achieved in a year, RAN achieved it in three months," he said.

There is also MU Online, one of the first serious online games in the country. Distributed by Digital Media Exchange, the company's president, Jojo Anonuevo, said they don't use the registered number of users as a measurement as it does not reflect actual player figures.

"Even if you have registered users some of these accounts don't get played anyway."

So instead, he said, DME relies on concurrent users.

"We peak at 70,000 concurrent users per day. But by comparison, our registered users are in five-digit figures."

Another early entrant to the serious game business is Skyblade, distributed by Z-Zone. Olive Bolico, marketing supervisor for Z-Zone, said they have so far 800,000 registrants and an average of 5,000 concurrent users.

"We've been doing a lot of marketing activities including monthly cash and item prizes that's why Skyblade is growing."

It would be difficult to identify which serious online game really is at the top. One way to measure it is through the number of players at Internet cafés, particularly Netopia, which has nearly 200 branches nationwide. Although they did not give the exact figures, Netopia gave the top online games played in their branches. Leading the pack is RF Online, followed by Pangya (a casual game), Ragnarok, Khan, MU Online, Freestyle (another casual game about basketball) and Skyblade.

On the other hand, Netopia noted that rating does not represent the entire industry since most online gamers still play from their homes. Instead, Netopia and perhaps most other Internet cafés, still cater to network gaming with the likes of Warcraft III, Counter-strike and Command & Conquer.

True enough, Dempz, who is found playing RAN Online at EGG, said he rarely plays online games at Internet shops.

"It's mostly from home and even my friends play from their homes," Dempz said.

When asked what he thinks is the number one serious online game for him, his response: "For me it's RAN, but I sometimes play RF Online because a lot of my classmates are there. Maybe Khan because that was what I first played. Honestly, I'm not really sure."

One thing is for sure though: The number of online gamers in the country is rising, and the number of companies offering their respective online games proves there is a maturing business in what was once considered child's play.

Program connects Davao del Sur town to the Internet

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

THE SMALL FARMING TOWN OF Magsaysay in Davao del Sur does not have a single telephone landline.

Although barely 21 kilometers away from Digos City, the town's farmers rely largely on door-to-door communications to get news about the outside world. Occasionally, a few residents send text messages through their mobile phones—if there's an available signal.

Recently, however, the town's few hundred residents finally became connected to other towns of Davao and to the rest of the world through collaborative efforts by the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (Opapa), the University of Southern Mindanao and Philippine Rice Research Institute (Philrice).

Magsaysay town is the first site of the "Konekted Na!" (Now Connected) program that aims to open new communication opportunities to small farming communities through wireless interconnections.

Its proponents say the project can be replicated in other remote farming areas that do not have basic telecommunications facilities.

Under the Konekted Na! project, several of Magsaysay town's schools and cooperatives connect to a wireless Internet link through a shared backbone installed in Digos City.

Among the cooperatives and schools that are wirelessly linked are the Barayon National High School, Department of Education North Elementary School and South Elementary School, Holy Cross of Magsaysay school, Magsaysay Academy, the Magsaysay Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative and the Badagoy Irrigators Association.

The connection features voice-over-Internet Protocol (VOIP) capabilities to allow the town's residents to call regular landline phones in Davao del Sur through the Internet.

The Konekted Na! project is also part of the Opapa's ongoing nationwide computerization project aimed at teaching agricultural and forestry experts and farmers to use the Internet both for keeping up with the latest agricultural trends and for commercial trading of goods.

The Opapa has also just finished the first nationwide Knowledge Networking for Enterprising Agricultural Communities (Kagrinet) project that utilized modified information technology buses as mobile classrooms for farmer and agricultural worker training.

Opapa director Roger Barroga said the purpose of Konekted Na! was to convince local government units (LGUs) to consider using wireless means of communications for municipalities that lack infrastructure. Likewise, he said the Opapa is willing to help LGUs that are hoping to implement similar programs

"Lucky for us, the interest for such a project is really high, especially in extremely rural areas. By using wireless technology, farmers would be able to keep up with the trends in farming techniques and become self-reliant."

Political tension in Asia driving IT money to RP

Erwin Oliva
Contributor

SINGAPORE—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY investments in manufacturing are likely to move to the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam due to the political tensions between China and Japan, the missile testing in North Korea, and the slow down of Japanese manufacturing investments in China, executives from Hewlett Packard (HP) said in an interview with reporters.

"The Philippines is back in the radar of manufacturing companies," said Kumar Narayanan, general manager of Manufacturing and Distribution Industry of HP's Technology Solutions Group for Asia Pacific and Japan.

The executive said about a third of the computer maker's overall business comes from providing technology and services to manufacturing and distribution companies in this region.

In the Philippines, customers include Procter and Gamble, Toyota, Intel, San Miguel Corp., and Pepsi Co., the executive added.

Manufacturing companies in Asia Pacific are expected to expand their operations this year, which means new investments in information technology, the HP executive said.

The oil and gas sector is now the biggest spender on IT in the Asia Pacific region, followed by the semiconductor industry which is building new plants in the region.

While China continues to enjoy a bigger share of investments in manufacturing, the HP executives said the recent North Korea missile testing will make companies jittery, said Mitsuhiro Honda, general manager of Manufacturing and Distribution Industries of HP Asia Pacific and Japan's Technology Solutions Group.

Honda said the cost of running manufacturing plants in Japan is also getting more expensive, while government policies in China requiring manufacturers to form joint ventures with local companies is stifling growth.

The HP executive said the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are now in a position to become possible locations of expansions in the manufacturing industry amid all these developments.

The computer maker offers various supply-chain technology and solutions, consulting, and "managed services" to manufacturing and distribution companies in Asia Pacific and Japan.

The manufacturing industry in Asia Pacific region represents 17 percent of the $238-billion global market in 2005, figures from market research firm International Data Corp. showed.

Meanwhile, the distribution industry in the same region is about 20 percent of the $124-billion global market last year, IDC figures noted.

INTRODUCING THE CLIPCAST

Clipcast videos ready for viewing on July 12

JULY 4, 2006--CLICKTHECITY.COM'S content has evolved. ClickTheCity is going beyond the conventional way of delivering content by providing its users with video clips, or "Clipcasts" starting July 12, it was announced by Nonong Vibar, president. Clipcasts are 3-to-5 minute video clips that will be accessible and made downloadable to all internet users. The first of the Clipcast series is Viewfinder, a weekly segment that will focus on unique and interesting Metro and destination city experiences in the Philippines. Viewfinder host, Cathy Paras, will be the user's virtual tour guide around the country. Paras will take them to and through places that are the current 'buzz' around town, or perhaps to sites that have never been featured before in the raw and quirky way that savvy internet users demand of their content providers - until now.

"ClickTheCity takes pride in keeping abreast with what technology has to offer, and Clipcasts enable ClickTheCity to harness the latest technology and to take advantage of both broadband Internet and 3G," says Vibar. The Clipcasts are made by an in-house production team spearheaded by executive producer, Jay A. Lara. "Our pilot, Viewfinder, will situate our viewers as close as possible to the experience without physically being there. The Clipcast series is one of the many ways in which ClickTheCity is keeping in-line with our aim to give our users up-to-date, rich and compelling information," says Vibar.

ClicktheCity.com is the country's definitive online and mobile entertainment and lifestyle guide, bringing up-to-date entertainment schedules and events, as well as city-living and travel features to its millions of users on the Internet and on mobile phones. In its six years of operation ClickTheCity.com has established itself as the leading website of its kind in the Philippines, garnering millions of distinct visitors who rely on the website daily for the most accurate entertainment and lifestyle information around Metro Manila and the Philippines.

Fuji Xerox announces Asia Pacific's 1st Apeos Partner with I-Magination Group

FUJI XEROX, THE DOCUMENT COMPANY, announced a strategic partnership with I-Magination Group, an Enterprise Content Management software and solutions provider with presence across Asia Pacific, and has appointed the company as its first Apeos Partner. With the goal of providing new value to customers, Apeos Partners are part of Fuji Xerox's new strategy to promote the building of alliances with partners to effectively utilize ApeosPort as the gateway to connect mission-critical processes or business services. Fuji Xerox will work with I-Magination Group to offer customers an integrated and secured Information Management solution, using I-Magination's latest Microsoft.NET-based Document WorkBench 5 through the use of all ApeosPort hardware.

The web-based Document WorkBench 5 software adopts the much-anticipated Role-Based Access Control for improved security and economic efficiency. It allows the personalizing of access rights to each individual role within an office, ensuring that a business' sensitive and valuable content is fully protected.

Working directly from a server, Document WorkBench 5 works effortlessly with the ApeosPort series of multifunctional devices to offer a flexible office solution that enables staff to browse, directly upload and exchange information stored on the document server from any ApeosPort device.

"This strategic partnership between Fuji Xerox and I-Magination Group, a Microsoft Partner, is a perfect example of how solution providers can come together to develop and deploy security-enhanced Microsoft.NET-based solutions to help businesses integrate systems more rapidly," said Daniel Ingitaraj, director, Developer Platform Evangelism, Microsoft Singapore.

To know more about Fuji Xerox Philippine's Apeos document management systems (DMS) and its top-notch hardware and software products, check out the upcoming product show this July 11 and 12 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. For more details, contact Fuji Xerox Philippines, Inc., 19th floor, 6788 Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, 878-5200, 886-7135 (fax), email roxee@phl.fujixerox.com, or visit their Web site at www.fujixerox.com.ph.

Genius intros Navigator 535 Laser Gaming Mouse

GENIUS RELEASES ITS LATEST POWERFUL and innovative laser gaming mouse, Navigator 535 for professional gamers looking for high performance and unique gaming mouse.

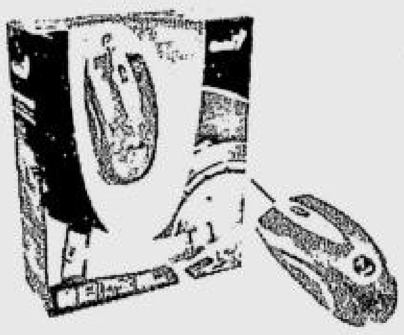
The most revolutionary function of Navigator 535 is its memory button, which can store up to five gaming profiles. Using Agama software, simply set up the mouse once and in a snap you're on the go to create your profile. Since your profile is stored on the mouse, you don't need to use the driver again even if you use Navigator 535 on any computer. You can take Navigator 535 wherever you go and you can easily access your game profiles. The green LED lights of G1 to G5 will blink one by one while pushing the memory button and you can choose which profile to use.

Navigator 535 provides an incredible 100x more sensitivity to surface detail or tracking power than an optical device, and the laser engine provides an astounding 6.4 mega pixels per second. It is ergonomically designed for your hand and wrist for long-term usage and comfort.

You can even switch the resolution of Navigator 535 to 2000, 1600 or 800 dpi with the three hot keys while you are playing the game. Just press one button on Navigator 535, and you can get the highest speed (7080 frame rate and 1000 report rate) with the smoothest motion in your virtual world---shooting, fighting, flying or racing. And when you're done with your virtual adventure, you can adjust the resolution to 800 dpi.

You can set a macro, continuous click, single click or other functions into the seven mouse buttons including the four side buttons. These programmable buttons add more fun to your gaming experience.

In the Philippines, Genius products are exclusively distributed by MSI-ECS (Phils). For more information on Genius products, contact James Ong at 688-3716 or e-mail jong@msi-ecs.com.ph. (SRP: TBD)



OWWA and Microsoft empower OFWs through technology

THE OVERSEAS WORKERS Welfare Administration (OWWA) and Microsoft Philippines, in partnership with Intel Microelectronics Philippines and the Philippine Long Distance and Telecommunications Company (PLDT), recently launched "Konek Ka D'yan," a special personal computer (PC) purchase program designed to enable Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to stay in touch with their families through technology.

Konek Ka D'yan is part of Microsoft's Partnerships for Technology Access (PTA), a global initiative focused on creating micro-financing solutions to enable consumers in emerging markets to purchase their first computer. OFWs can avail of Intel-based PCs equipped with Windows XP operating systems based on a 12-month installment plan under the OWWA's Family Assistance Loan (FAL). The PCs are pre-configured to include a modem, a webcam and headset.

Konek Ka D'yan was officially launched in a grand event attended by OFW families at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City. Photo above shows (back row, from left) Microsoft Philippines managing director Antonio Javier, Jr., Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, and OWWA Administrator Marianito Roque pressing the Windows "Start" button to formally launch the program. Joining them are (front row, from left) Channarong Boonratanasmai, Intel SEA regional manager; and Raul Alvarez, PLDT assistant vice president for marketing services.

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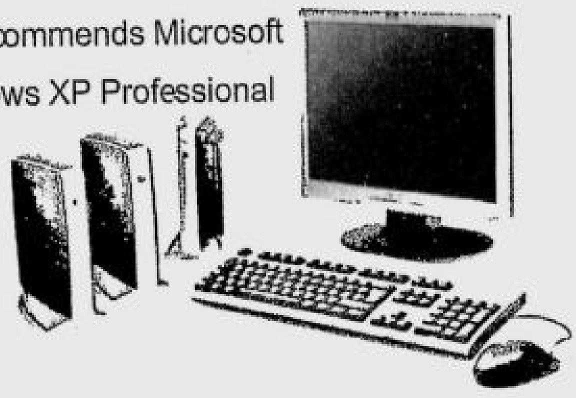

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- MultiBay and security options
- Altiris Deployment Solution

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- Four USB 2.0 ports and parallel, serial and PS/2 connectors
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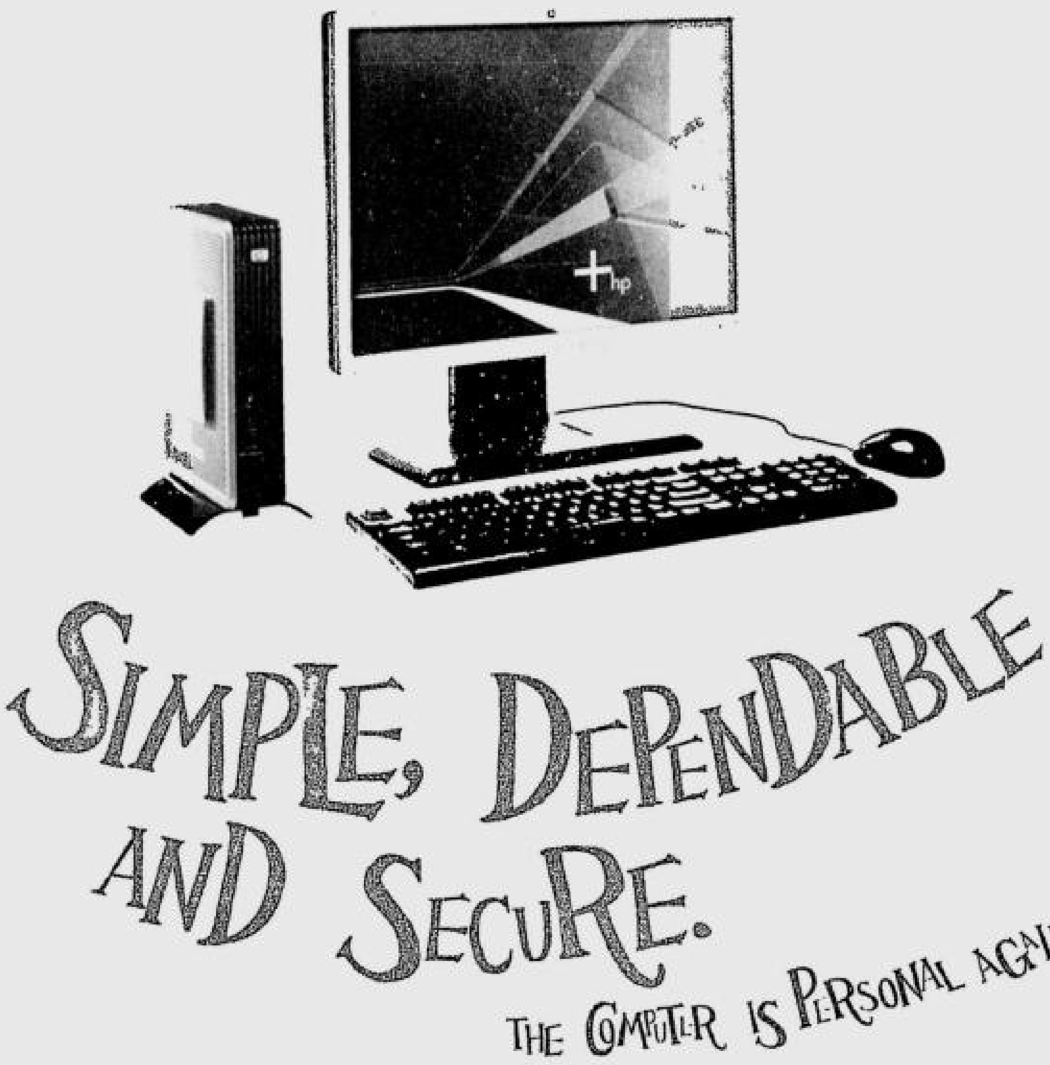
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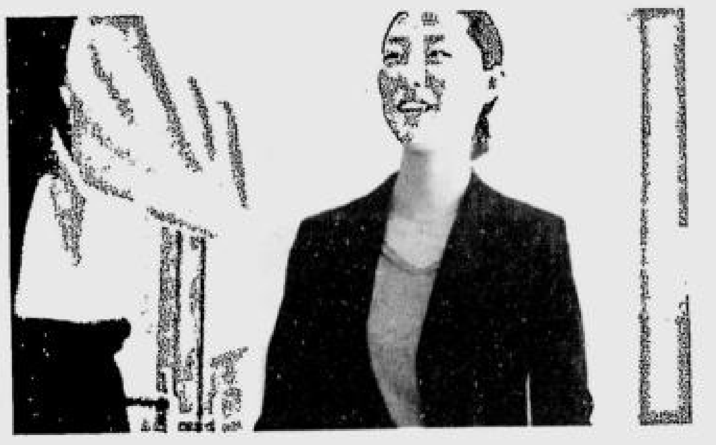

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Industry-standard designs and technologies, tested to the limit by HP, result in highly reliable thin clients. A discreet ROM for the BIOS protects it from accidental corruption or modification.

LIFESTYLE

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MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◎ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎

BANAWE Rice Terraces, inscribed in the Unesco World Heritage list

Garden landscapes are also part of heritage

The Mehan Garden and Arroceros Forest Park debacles are proof of national disrespect for the designed landscape

THE MANILA City Hall is set to wipe out the Arroceros Forest Park.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNcil of Monuments and Sites (Icomos), the global organization of heritage practitioners based in Paris, is the body that officially advises the Unesco World Heritage Committee on cultural heritage issues.

Usually the World Heritage Center calls on Icomos members to give expert opinions in heritage issues raised by members of the World Heritage Committee. Icomos is assigned to assess sites that are nominated to the World Heritage List. It is asked to evaluate the maintenance of inscribed World Heritage sites and to prescribe methods for improvement.

However, the more important aspect of Icomos is that the organization sets international standards to guide the conservation profession. These are written out in a series of charters, resolutions and declarations that cover practically all aspects of the conservation practice.

The 1964 International Charter, for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, popularly known as the Venice Charter, sets the standard. It establishes the basic principles and guidelines that are followed by conservation practitioners all over the world today.

The Venice Charter maintains that the historic monuments of past generations are living witnesses of their age-old traditions. People are now more conscious of the unity of shared human values and regard ancient monuments as common heritage. Therefore the responsibility to safeguard them for future generations is recognized. It is the people's duty to safeguard them for future generations and to hand the monuments to the next generations in the full richness of their authenticity.

"It is essential that the principles guiding the preservation and restoration of ancient buildings should be agreed and be laid down on an international basis, with each country being responsible for applying the plan within the framework of its own culture and traditions," the charter says.

The charter adds, "The concept of a historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also its urban or rural setting."

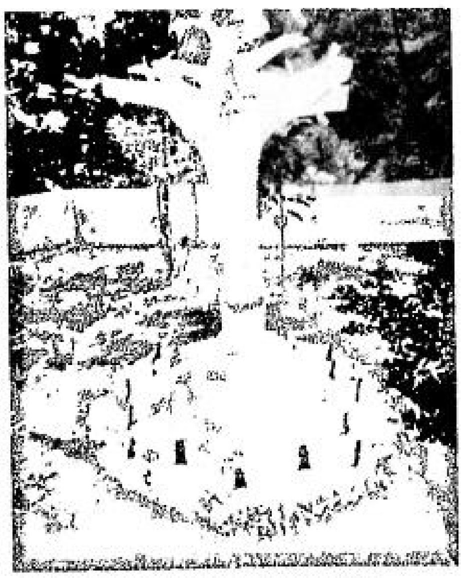
No alteration

Monuments are best when they are still in use. However, the original layout and decoration of the building should be maintained. To preserve the traditional setting of the monument, new construction, demolition or modification of surroundings should not alter the original relationship of the building with its neighbors.

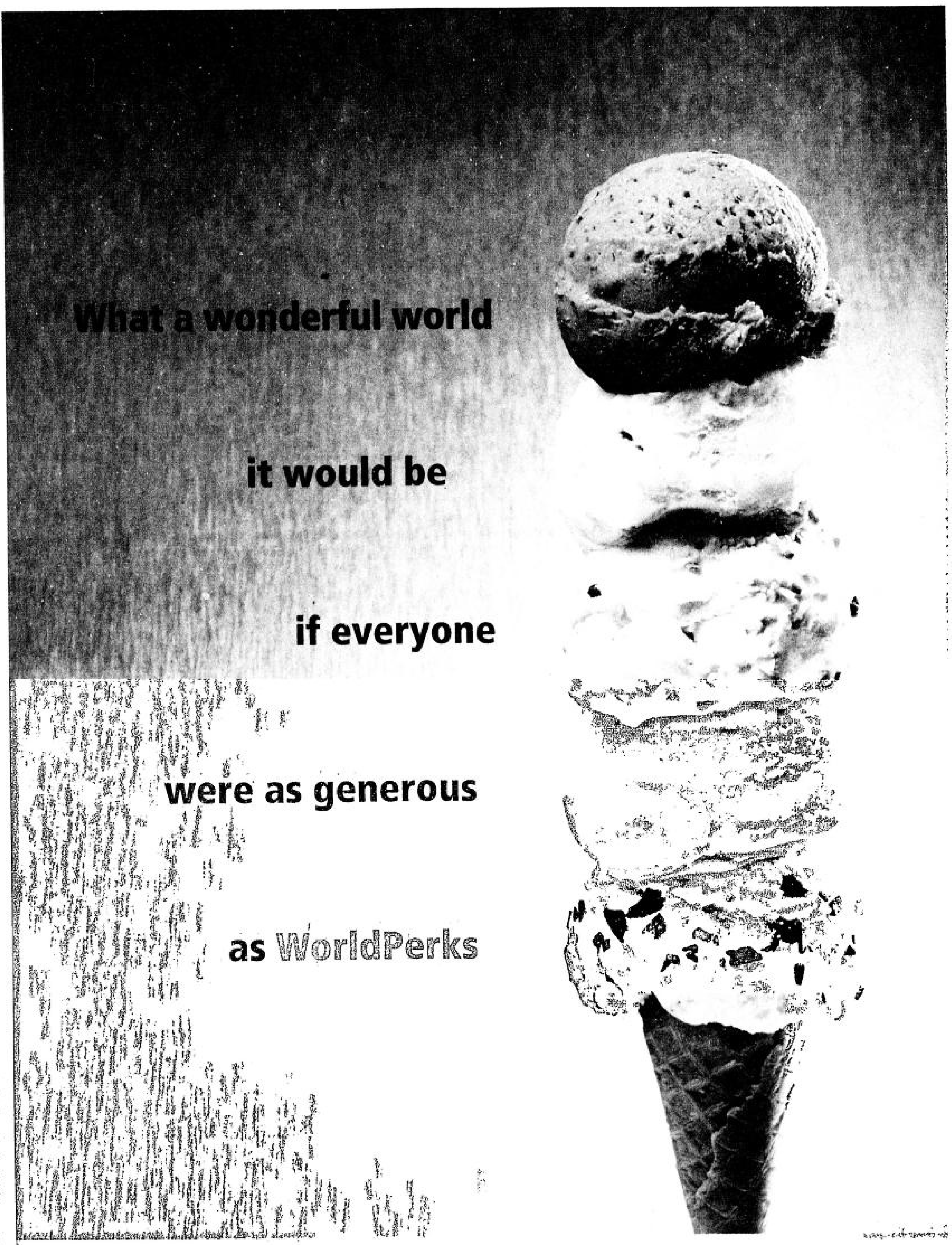
A monument is inseparable from its history and setting. Moving all or part of a monument cannot be allowed except when its safeguarding demands it, or when justified by national or international interest regarding it is of paramount importance.

On the restoration issue, the charter states,

GARDEN/ C2



PROTEST art installation against the destruction of Mehan Garden



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'Salumpuwit, atbp.' at the Met Museum

ON VIEW UNTIL JULY 22 AT THE Lor Calma Gallery of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila is an exhibition of contemporary chairs titled "Salumpuwit, atbp."

Using old and discarded local wood such as *balayong*, *kalantas*, *akle* and *ipil*, sculptor Jerry Araos creates architectonic sculptures of the furniture piece for sitting that good-humored Pinoys anointed as the *salumpuwit* or "butt-catcher." A recurring form is the individual seat carved as a torso with buttocks on both ends. It comes in a range of sizes adapted to the rear of its target sitter. There are seats for women, for men, for children, and even one for the "Alphabutt."

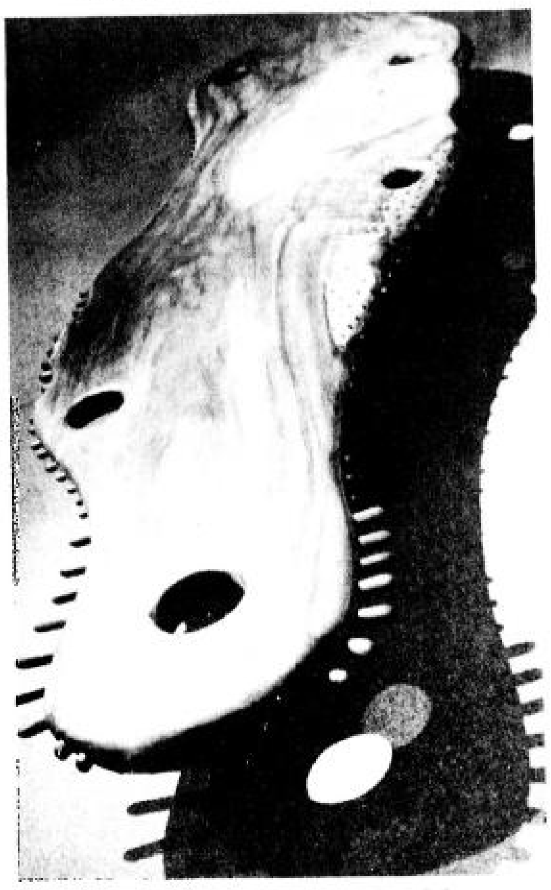
Several pieces on exhibit are also sculpted according to the Filipino sitting habits such as *salampak* (sitting flopped down), *kuyakoy* (swinging one's legs back and forth while sitting), and the Indian-sit (sitting with the legs cross-tucked under the thighs). All the chairs and benches are marked by undulating silhouettes and interspersed circular details.

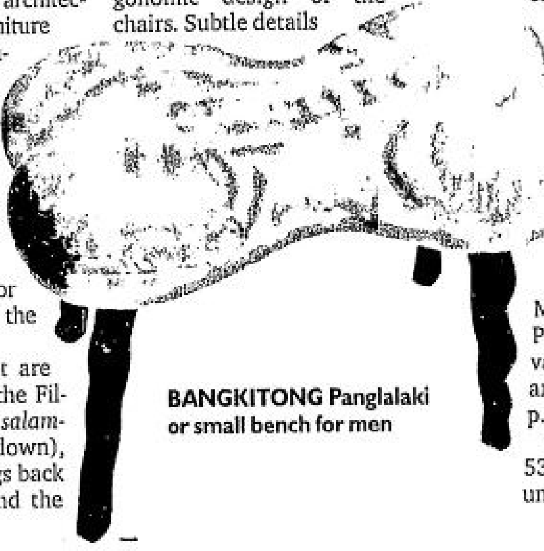
Hand-in-hand with the sculptural integrity of the works is the ergonomic design of the chairs. Subtle details demonstrate the sculptor's awareness of the human body and his consideration for the comfort in sitting on a hard wooden material. Museum visitors are encouraged to sit on and experience the pieces.

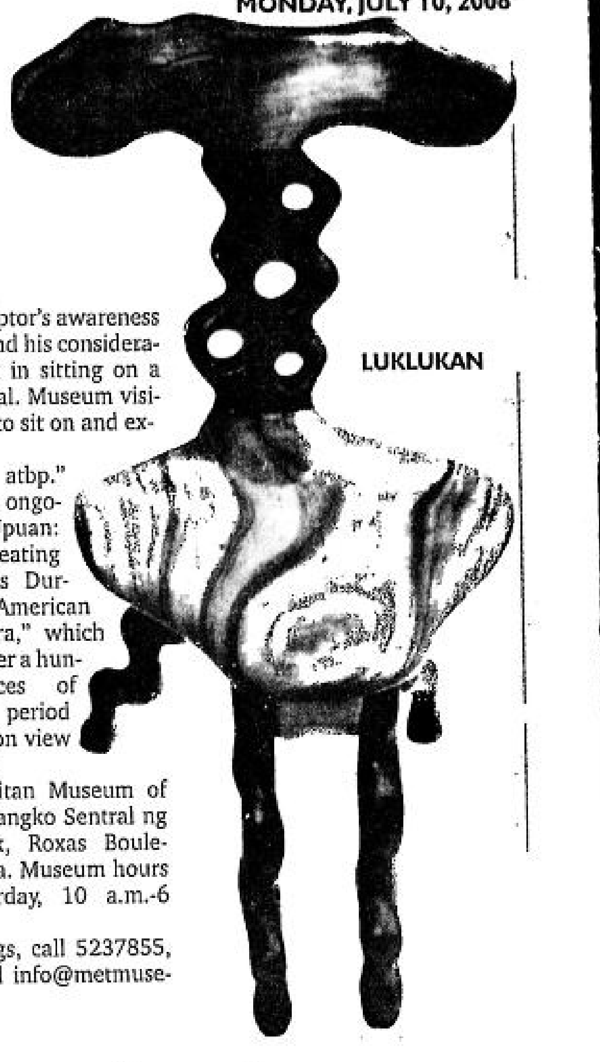
"Salumpuwit, atbp." complements the ongoing exhibit, "Upuan: Philippine Seating Arrangements During the American Colonial Era," which features over a hundred pieces of American period chairs. It is on view until Sept. 14.

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila is at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila. Museum hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

For tour bookings, call 5237855, 5361566, or e-mail info@metmuseum.ph.


BANGKONG Pang-upong Indian or bench for Indian-sit

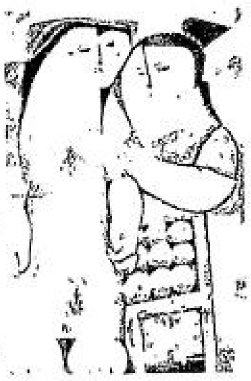

BANGKITONG Panglalaki or small bench for men

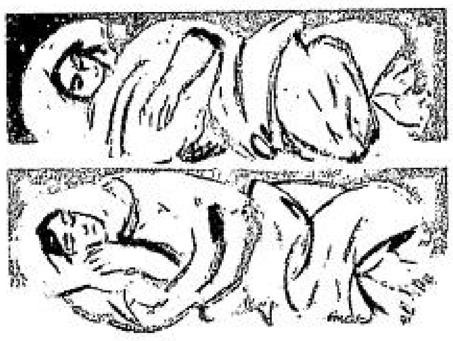

LUKLUKAN

VISUAL ARTS

Malang at Power Plant

Power Plant Mall presents "Malang's Women," by Mauro "Malang" Santos, July 20-31. The exhibit pays tribute to one of Malang's most favorite subjects—women. Call 8981702 or 8111377.


"FRUIT Vendors"


"SIESTA (Pair)" by Bencab

Bencab at CCP

The Cultural Center of the Philippines and ING Private Banking present a solo exhibit by recently proclaimed National Artist Benedicto "Bencab" Cabrera, "Bencab on Paper: Prints and Paper Pulp Paintings," which opens July 13 at the CCP Bulwagang Juan Luna. Curated by Ambeth Ocampo, the exhibit will feature recent works of Bencab from his artistic residency at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute this year. The exhibit will run until Sept. 3. Call 8323702.

Group show at West

West Gallery is holding the group exhibit, "The Way We Get By," July 11-29. Mariano Ching continues to explore the layering of images and the multiple meanings they produce. Yasmin Sison-Ching takes the point of view of a child on collective and personal memories and their fictive qualities in "Tale" series. Geraldine Javier's "Tom Waits' Lullaby" series features bird images embroidered on fabric with background floral designs as substitutes for original living objects. Keiye Miranda-Tuazon situates her figures underwater. Lyra Garcellano uses plastic letters glued on a white wall in "Everybody's Desperate to Be Relevant." Christina Dy uses large-scale drawings to show the various aspects of voyeurism. The exhibit also features Gary Pastrana. West Gallery is at the new Mary Santos Artcade, 4 West Ave., QC. Call 4110336 or 4119221.

"GREAT Expectation," by Keiye Miranda Tuazon

Magno at Cubicle

The Cubicle Art Gallery presents "Schizophrenia," recent works by Angelo Magno, July 15-Aug. 12. The artist creates an installation of multiple drawings inspired by events and personalities. Magno plays with icons and images and create nuances and tensions on their conventional meanings. The Cubicle Art Gallery is at 40a C. Raymundo Ave. and Stella Maris, Pasig. Call 6416700.

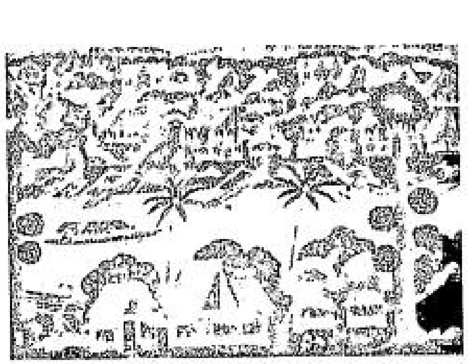
Wuzela at German Club

The German Club presents Lily Avila-Wuzela in "Sequela," which opens today. The exhibit is a sequel to her first exhibit of expressionist oil-on-canvas paintings depicting women and flowers. Call 0921-2397025.

LILY Avila-Wuzela

Print-art lecture at Lopez

The Lopez Museum will hold a lecture on prints, July 15, 2-4 p.m. Ambie Abano and the Philippine Association of Printmakers will conduct the lecture. Fee is at P120. The Lopez Museum is at the G/F, Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road and Meralco Avenue, Pasig. Call 6312417.


"SA TABING Ilog," by Lodronio

Lodronio at De las Islas

Galeria de las Islas presents "A Glimpse of the Countryside," an exhibit of oil on canvas by Crisanto Lodronio. It opens today at Ilustrado Restaurant, across the courtyard of the Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila, and runs until Sept. 30. Call 5272113.

Gaudinez, Nuestro at Alliance Française

Alliance Française Total Gallery presents "Trace/Re-trace," an exhibit by Gaudinez and Nuestro, July 12-Aug. 12. Gaudinez delves into precolonial motifs in his Maharlika series, composed in the abstract mode. Nuestro's "Dambana" series in acrylic on unfolded, torn and aged paper, tries to simulate earthly ambiance as well as the spiritual, inspired by early Filipino animistic belief of sacred place in nature.

Caasi, Pueblo, Farol at Blanc

Blanc Art Space (2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati) presents "Driptriptych," July 14-Aug 5. The exhibit features three contemporary artists: painter Ruel Caasi; glass sculptor Noell El Farol; and multimedia artist, Mervy Pueblo. Call 7520032 or 9114726.

UNTITLED, by Ruel Caasi

Garden landscapes

From page C1

"The process of restoration is a highly specialized operation. Its aim is to preserve and reveal the aesthetic and historic value of the monument, and is based on respect for original material and authentic documents. It must stop at the point where conjecture begins, and, in this case moreover, any extra work which is indispensable must be distinct from the architectural composition and must bear a contemporary stamp. The restoration in any case must be preceded and followed by an archeological and historical study of the monument.

"The valid contributions of all periods to the building of a monument must be respected, since unity of style is not the aim of a restoration. When a building includes the superimposed work of different periods, the revealing of the underlying state can only be justified in exceptional circumstances and when what is removed is of little interest and the material which is brought to light is of great historical, archeological or aesthetic value, and its state of preservation good enough to justify the action. Evaluation of the importance of the elements involved and the decision as to what may be destroyed cannot rest solely on the individual in charge of the work.

"Replacements of missing parts must integrate harmoniously with the whole, but at the same time must be distinguishable from the original so that restoration does not falsify the artistic or historic evidence."

The 1981 Florence Charter on Historic Gardens defines a historic garden as a monument, an "architectural and horticultural composition of interest to the public from the historical or artistic point of view," and, as a monument, it "must be preserved in accordance with the spirit of the Venice Charter."

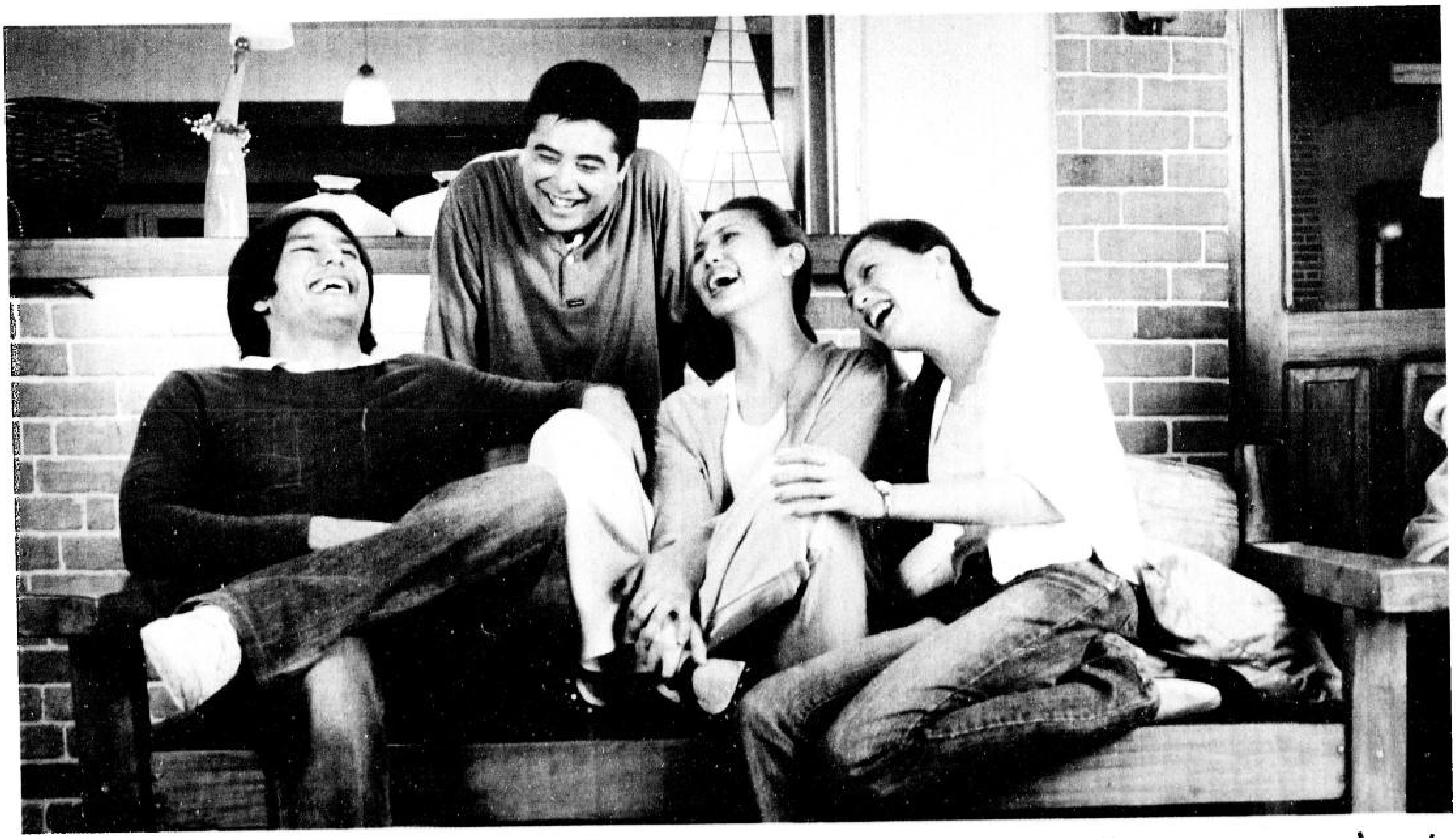
The term "historic garden" is equally applicable to small gardens and to large landscaped parks. Whatever their size, designed gardens express the affinity between man and nature.

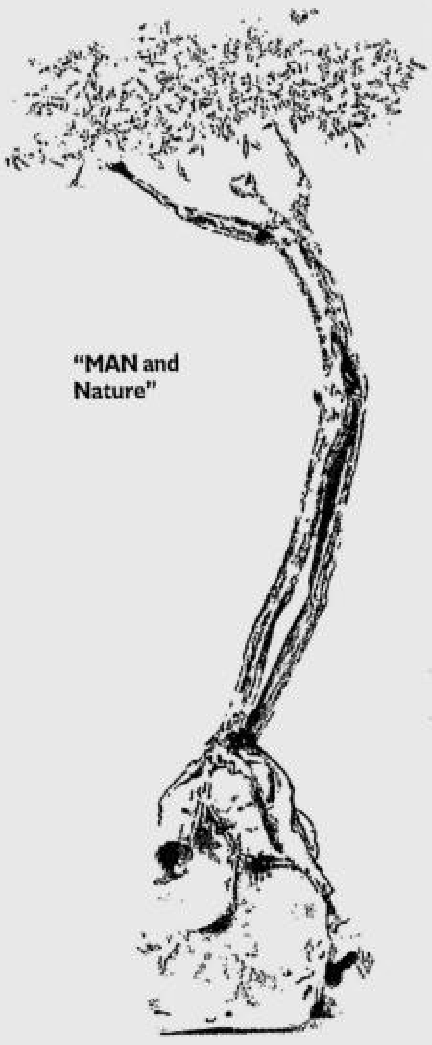
Gardens are alive. Therefore continuous maintenance with a specified cycle of planting and replanting is required to keep the garden and its decorative features in the unchanged condition required by the Venice Charter.

The Florence Charter specifies procedures to be followed for restoration and reconstruction of historic gardens, further recommending that gardens must be open for public use but must not be taxed by overuse, and continues to suggest that qualified professionals be engaged to maintain historic gardens.

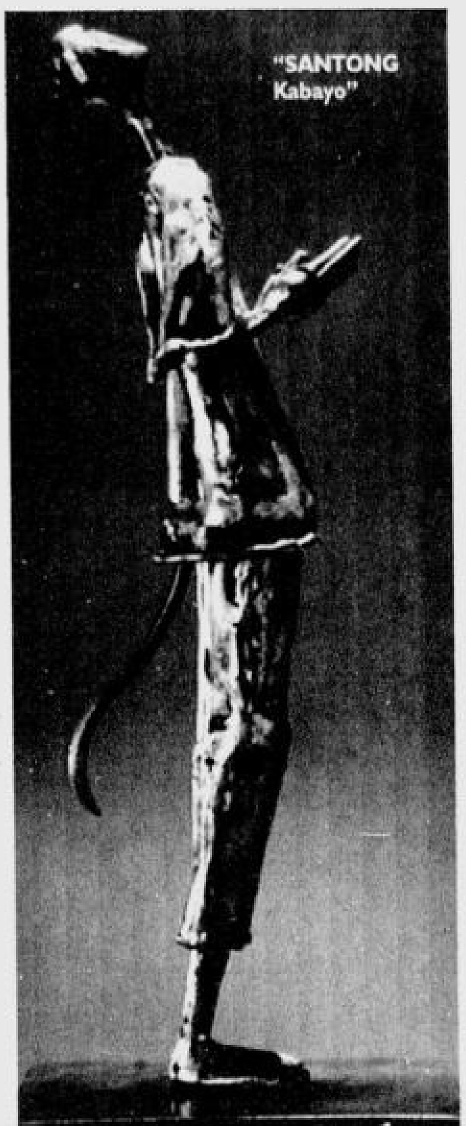
Philippine society in general is unaware of the landscape architecture profession and of the historic significance of the designed landscape. The Mehan Garden and Arroceros Forest Park debacles are proof of national disrespect for the designed landscape. Recent constructions that intrude on the open space of Rizal Park, a national monument protected by the National Historical Institute, further illustrate disregard for the designed landscape.

Comments are welcome at pride.place@gmail.com



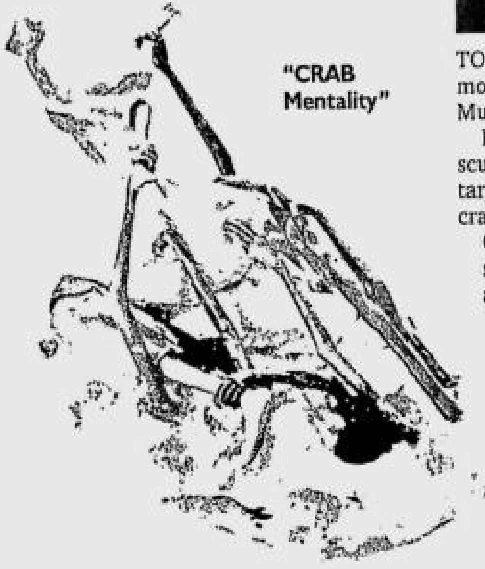


"MAN and Nature"



"SANTONG Kabayo"

Cacnio in red



"CRAB Mentality"

TOP SCULPTOR MICHAEL CACNIO IS mounting "Reflections on Red" at the Ayala Museum.

Presented by Canvas, the exhibit shows the sculptor continuing with his social commentary by depicting ills and concerns such as crab mentality and corruption.

Cacnio also parlays triumphs of the human spirit in his metaphorical brass pieces such as "Trial and Perseverance" and "Man and Nature."

All the sculptures, for the first time, incorporates the color red, and will be accompanied by short stories, poems or writings from the Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting (Kuting), the premier association of Filipino children's storywriters.

The show opens on July 21, 6 p.m. Call 09178-906160 or visit www.canvas.ph

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Have you ever come inside from a smoke-break to find you've missed out on a great conversation or funny joke? Have you ever missed out on a picture-perfect moment of your child because you just couldn't resist the craving any longer? Have you ever found yourself running embarrassingly late to a social event because you had to have "one last cigarette" before you left the house?

"Smoking can be addicting. Cigarettes fulfill the criteria for substance dependence as they deliver significant amounts of nicotine which is a positive reinforcer. When a person quits the habit, he experiences several withdrawal symptoms during abstinence which is only relieved by nicotine administration," explains Dr. Daniel Tan, president of Tobacco-Free Philippines.

Nicotine is one of over 4,000 substances found in cigarette smoke. It's a common misconception that it causes cancer but it does not. Instead, it is the other substances in cigarettes that are mainly responsible for bringing physical damage to your body. Nicotine in cigarettes is what makes it so hard to stop smoking.

A Welcome Arrival

This is where the Nicorette (nicotine) gum comes in. It is a form of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) that has assisted thousands of smokers around the world for over 20 years to beat the habit by controlling their cravings. Now smokers need only chew mint-flavored and sugar-free Nicorette gum to provide their body with just enough nicotine to reduce the cravings.

Dr. Lenora Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine at the UP College of Medicine, welcomes the arrival of Nicorette in the country. "The availability of a pharmacological treatment like the Nicorette gum will further boost the country's smoking cessation programs. The use of Nicorette along with a stop smoking program will definitely increase success rates of those who want to quit smoking." And Dr. Fernandez should know. She is also the Consultant Coordinator of Philippine General Hospital's Comprehensive Ambulatory Respiratory (CARE) Program and Stop Smoking Program.

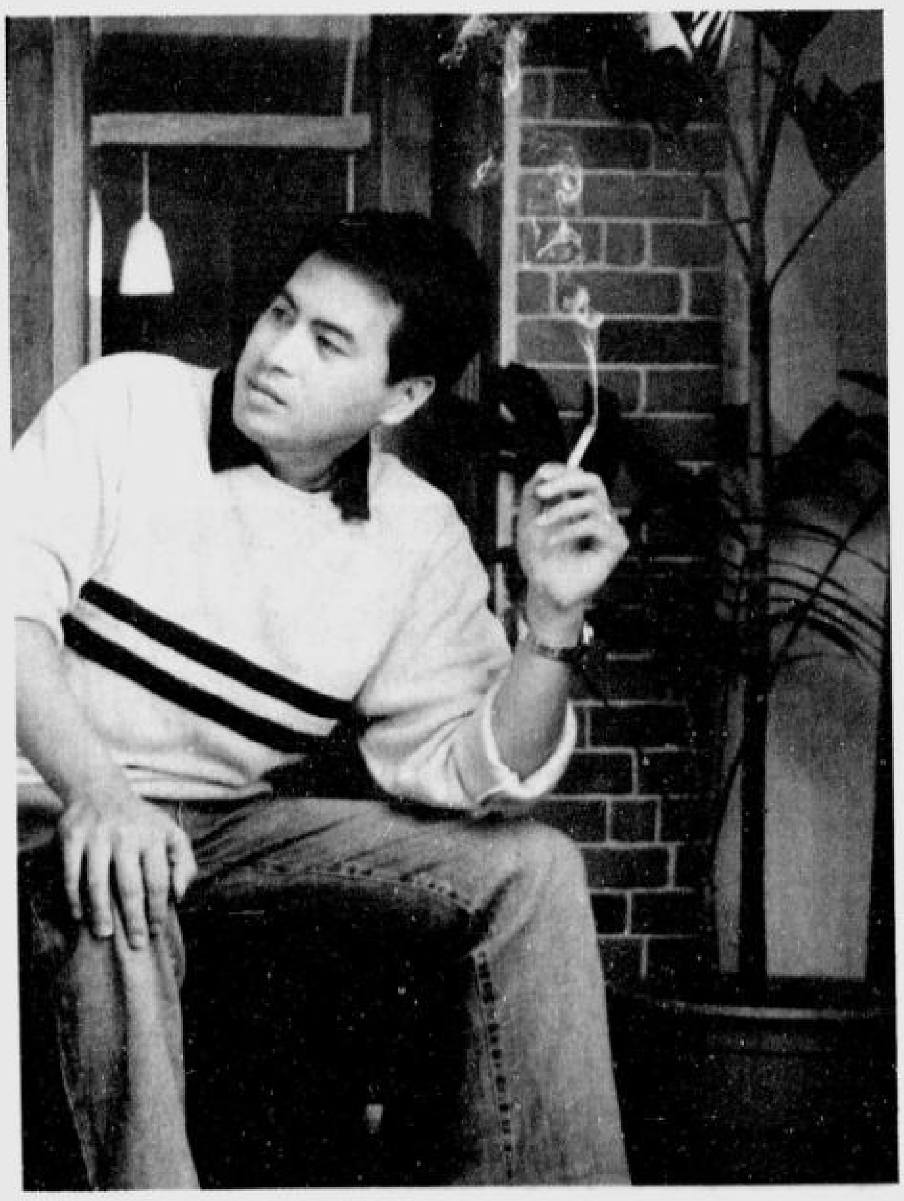
Don't think cigarettes. Think Nicorette.

Nicorette gum is highly recommended for people who need to relieve their withdrawal symptoms because they want to stop smoking immediately, or want to reduce smoking gradually, then quit.

It works by releasing nicotine into the saliva and is absorbed through the lining of the mouth. Its effect is a noticeable decrease in both the cravings and withdrawal symptoms that a smoker goes through when trying to quit. Nicorette and willpower combined doubles one's chances of quitting successfully.

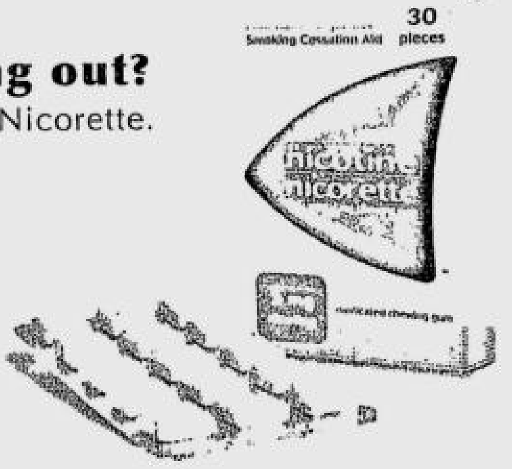
By using Nicorette when cravings strike, smokers can get on the path to giving up smoking and focus on their pastimes and hobbies, stay in the company of their friends and families and enjoy life to the fullest.

ADVT



Missing out?

Don't think cigarettes. Think Nicorette.



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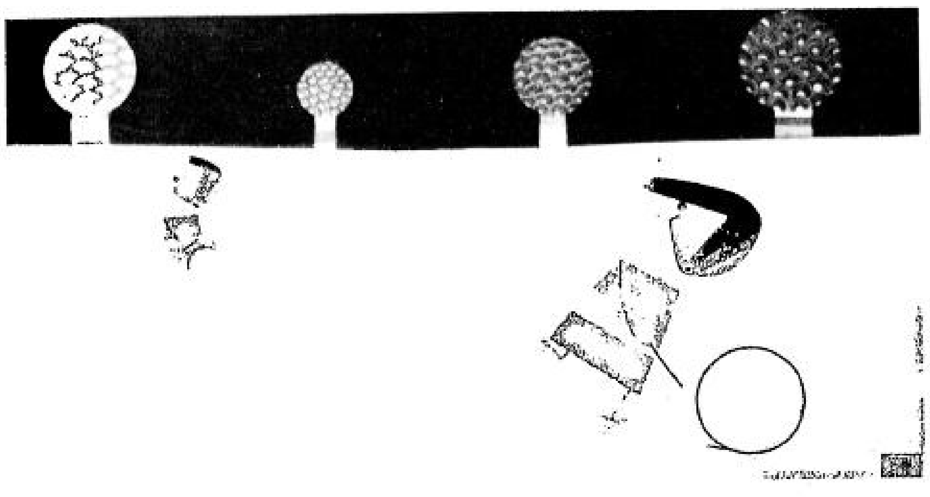
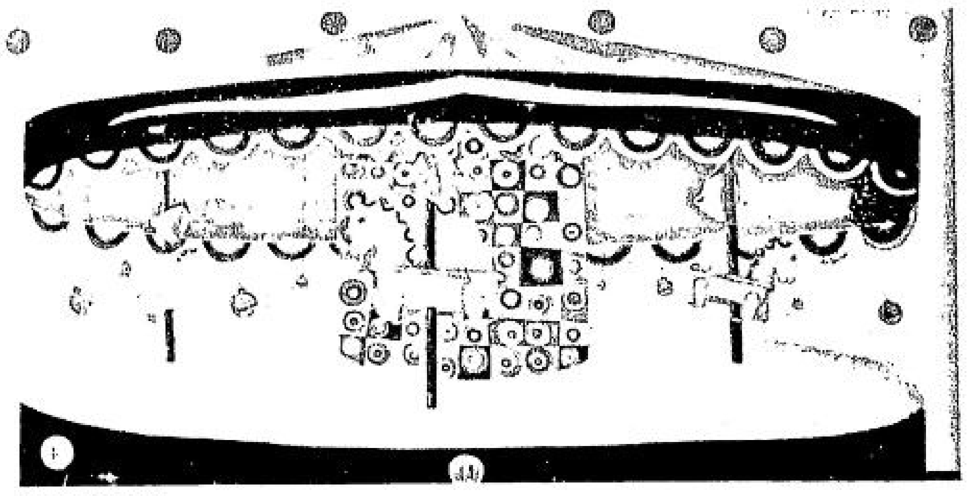


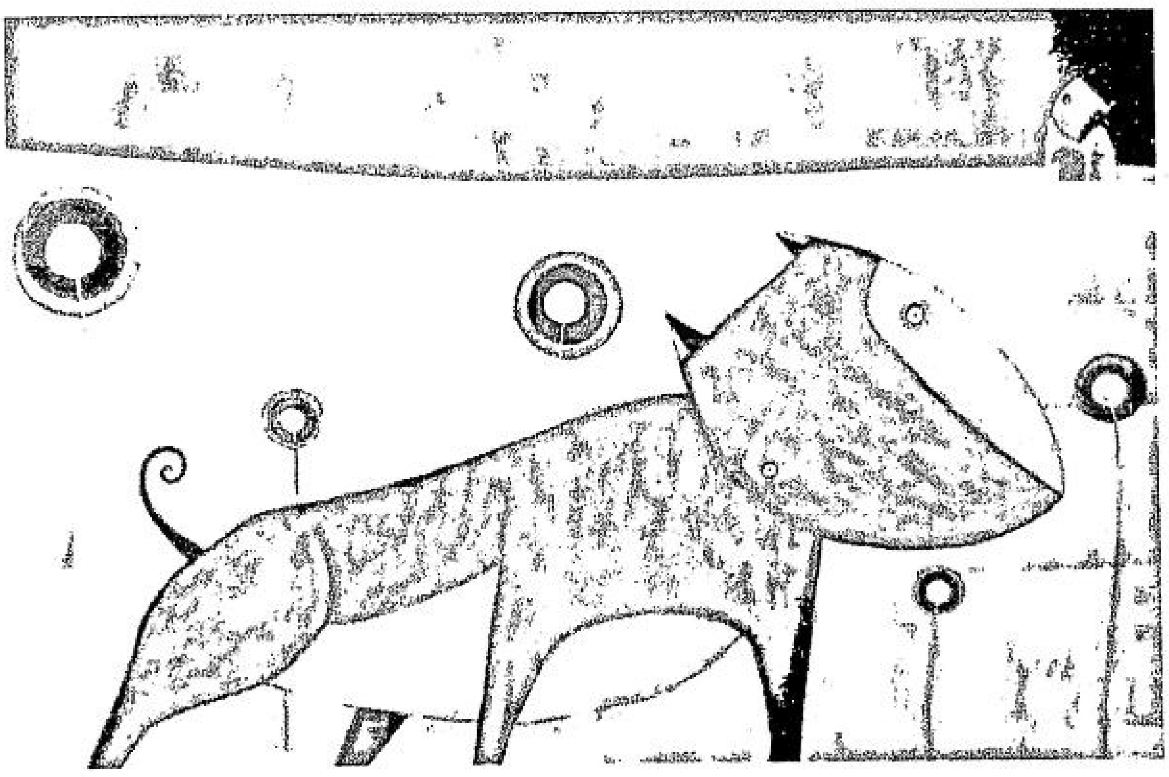
"ROLLING the Hours (for Zack)"



"CAROUSEL"

Cartoonish art transfixes with its brilliant colors and lines conjuring a complex of emotions

The impish charm of Farley del Rosario



"THE DISTANCE Between Us"

By Lito B. Zulueta

THEIR IMPISH QUALITY MASKS THEIR genial deviltry. That's probably the best way to describe the strange figures that inhabit the world of Farley del Rosario's canvases. The figures represent nothing at all bizarre or out of this world. In Del Rosario's newest oil-and-acrylic series, "At Play" (running until July 12 at Blanc Art Space, 2E Crown Tower, 107 De La Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; tel. 7520032 and 0920-9276436), the figures are predictably children at play or in the amusement park. There are also domestic animals that seem to have been battened or grown too comfortable in their domestication. In short, these are happy figures, utterly happy.

Their lightsomeness is easily prefigured in the lines, specifically Del Rosario's vintage string-necks that seem to transform the heads into kites. The possibility that the artist has drawn his figures from the playful kite is not remote since Del Rosario has always mined the rich memories of childhood to depict his intriguing figures. The kite-metaphor gives his figures their magical spirit, their joyous quality.

The lithesome lines are complemented by the colors. Del Rosario's dominant green shades are still here, grown even lighter and sun-kissed. In what could be a slight assay at breadth and kaleidoscope, he mottles certain figures in his canvas, such as the inflatable pool in "Fellow Yellow," the table in "Morning Coffee," and the merry-go-round in "Carousel" so that they seem like Pucci prints in various blushes and flushes. The effect provides contrast to the wash of crystal clear aquas, pale fuschias and lemon greens. The colors aren't exactly kindergarten, but they hold the distracted eye, like a colorful toy hanging over the crib, mesmerizing the tender resident.

In some instances, the figures are set against their surroundings, such as in "Carousel" and "Rolling the Hours," so that they contrast and meld. In the former, the vertical figure of the boy riding the toy-horse provides the contrast and balance to the kaleidoscope on the merry-go-round. In the latter, the boys running their toy-wheels on the rolling terrain provide a sense of flight athwart gravity's pull. The effect is surprisingly tranquil.

Romantic piece

But more surprisingly, despite the inherent romance of Del Rosario's pieces, the work that is most redolent with romance is one that depicts domestic animals. In "The Distance Between Us," two dogs steal glances at each other while all around them, the field seems to bloom with promises of love. The scene is sweet and poignant.

The series departs from Del Rosario's earlier explorations of pain and struggle that were somehow restrained or provided with an ironic balance by his trademark cartoon-strip renderings in olive colors. Looking back, part of the collector's fascination with these earlier works were their prefiguration of the struggles of growing up and early adulthood through lines that, at first blush, seem unsophisticated, and colors that were deceptively callow.

In his new series, Farley del Rosario pushes the envelope, and depicts childhood scenes of play and abandon with lines and colors that seems to perfectly complement them to a gadding edge.

Are his works too gullible for comfort? No, on the contrary, they are deceptively simple. His kite-figures reveal the tensils of faith and spirit, grasping at the flow and mystery of the cosmos. Del Rosario may be young, but his cartoonish art is not wet behind the ears. It's an art awash with tender but complex emotions.

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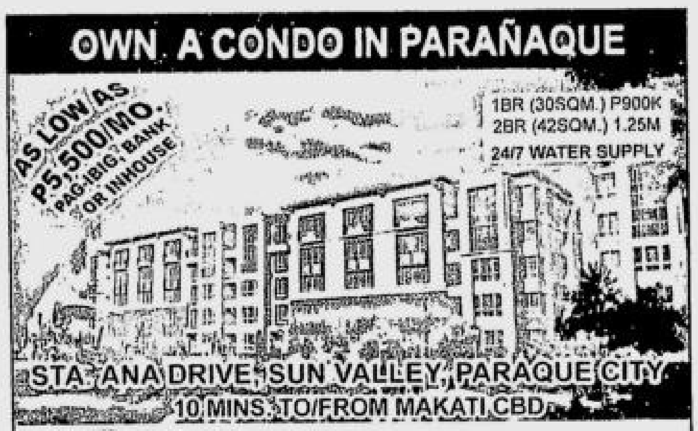
Opera fever rising

STORY ON D3

Hiyas Hila in homecoming piano concert

OWN A CONDO IN PARAÑAQUE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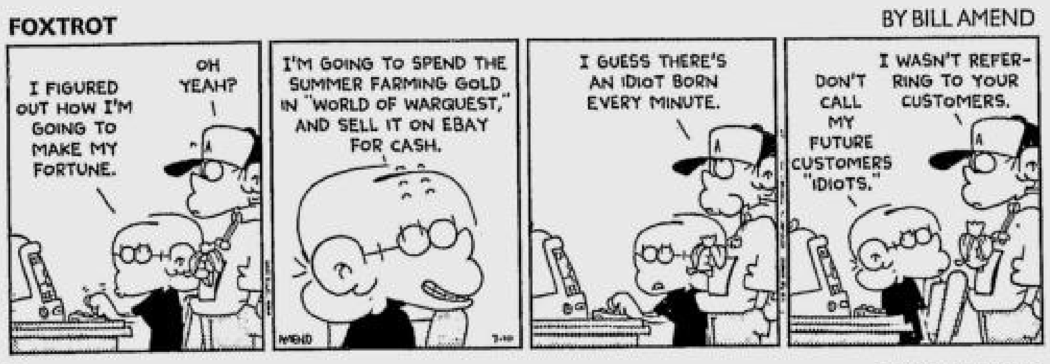
VISA

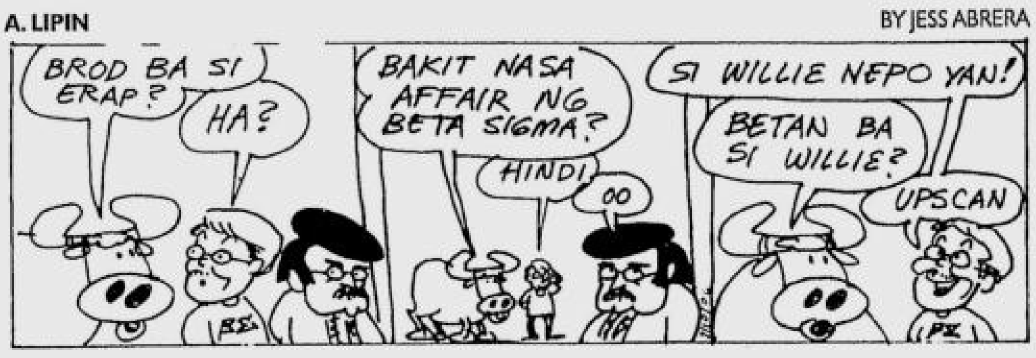
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I FIGURED OUT HOW I'M GOING TO MAKE MY FORTUNE.
OH YEAH?
I'M GOING TO SPEND THE SUMMER FARMING GOLD IN "WORLD OF WARQUEST," AND SELL IT ON EBAY FOR CASH.
I GUESS THERE'S AN IDIOT BORN EVERY MINUTE.
DON'T CALL MY FUTURE CUSTOMERS "IDIOTS."
I WASN'T REFERRING TO YOUR CUSTOMERS.
AMEND
7-10

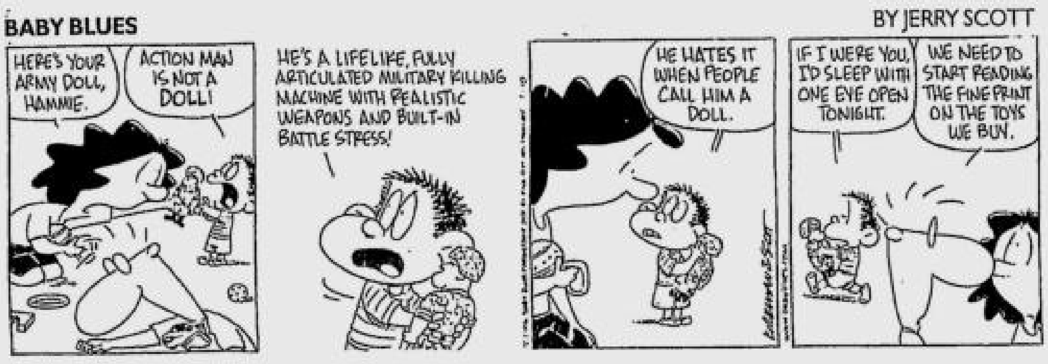
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BROD BA SI ERAP?
HA?
BAKIT NASA AFFAIR NG BETA SIGMA?
HINDI
OO
SI WILLIE NEPO YAN!
BETAN BA SI WILLIE?
UPSCAN

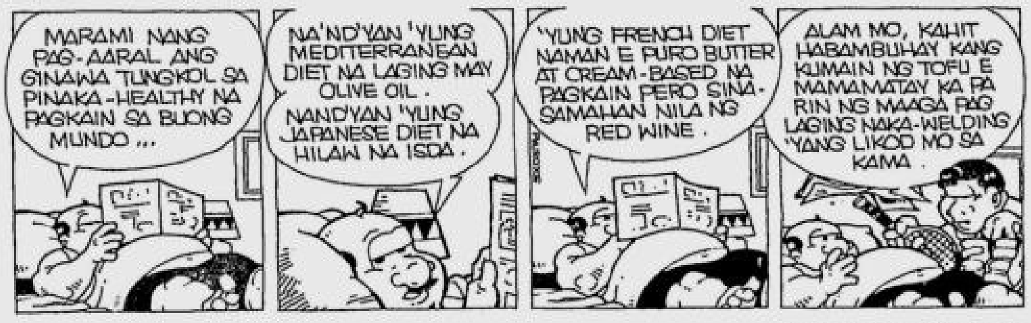
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HERE'S YOUR ARMY DOLL, HAMMIE.
ACTION MAN IS NOT A DOLL!
HE'S A LIFELIKE, FULLY ARTICULATED MILITARY KILLING MACHINE WITH REALISTIC WEAPONS AND BUILT-IN BATTLE STRESS!
HE HATES IT WHEN PEOPLE CALL HIM A DOLL.
IF I WERE YOU, I'D SLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN TONIGHT.
WE NEED TO START READING THE FINE PRINT ON THE TOYS WE BUY.

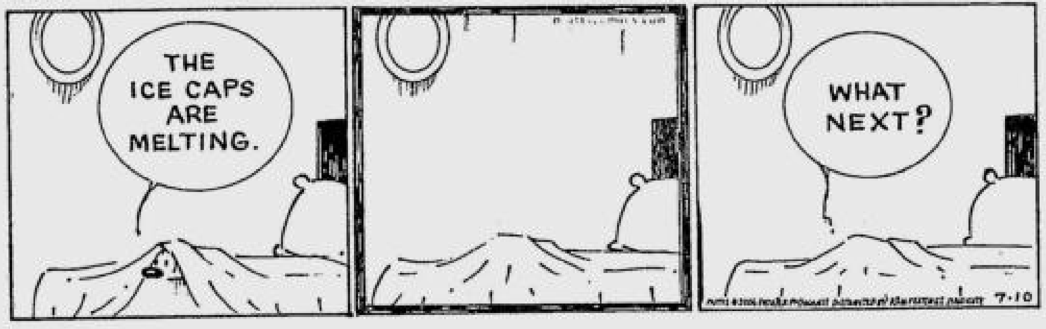
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MARAMI NANG PAG-AARAL ANG GINAWA TUNGKOL SA PINAKA-HEALTHY NA PAGKAIN SA BUONG MUNDO ...
NA'ND'YAN 'YUNG MEDITERRANEAN DIET NA LAGING MAY OLIVE OIL.
NAND'YAN 'YUNG JAPANESE DIET NA HILAW NA ISDA.
'YUNG FRENCH DIET NAMAN E PURO BUTTER AT CREAM-BASED NA PAGKAIN PERO SINASAMAHAN NILA NG RED WINE.
ALAM MO, KAHIT HABAMBUHAY KANG KUMAIN NG TOFU E MAMAMATAY KA PA RIN NG MAAGA PAG LAGING NAKA-WELDING 'YANG LIKOD MO SA KAMA.

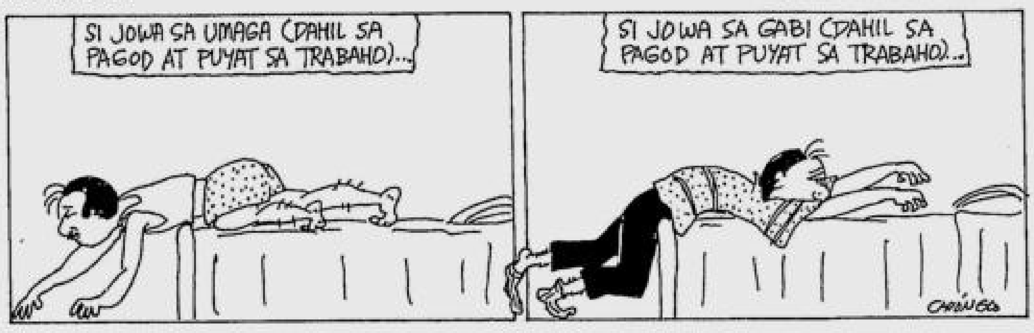
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE ICE CAPS ARE MELTING.
WHAT NEXT?
7-10

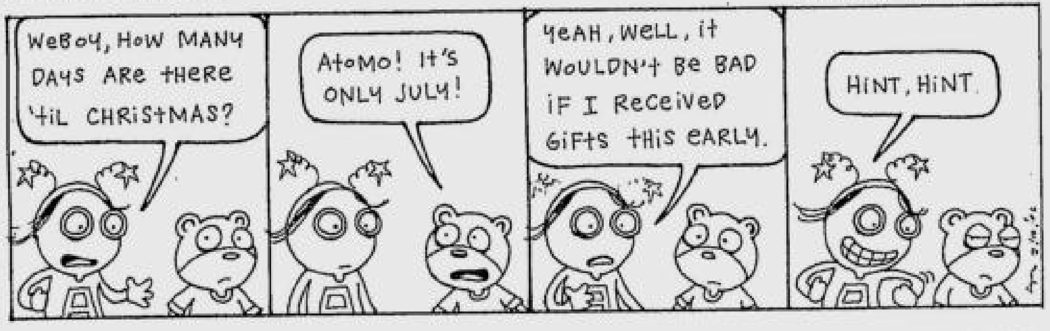
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SI JOWA SA UMAGA (DAHIL SA PAGOD AT PUYAT SA TRABAHO)...
SI JOWA SA GABI (DAHIL SA PAGOD AT PUYAT SA TRABAHO)...
CHIONGLO

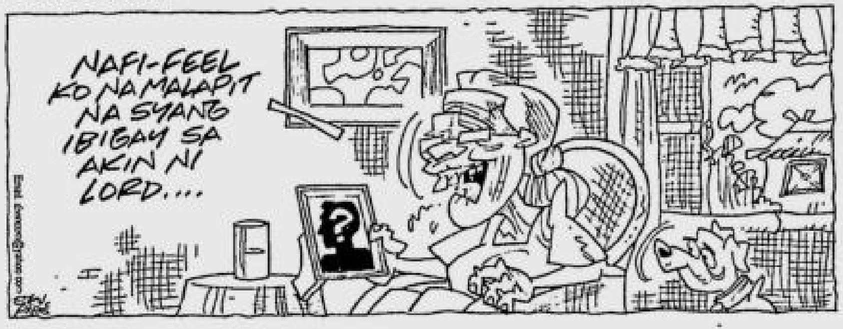
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy, HOW MANY DAYS ARE there 'tiL CHRISTMAS?
AtoMo! It's ONLY JULY!
yeAH, WeLL, it WOULDN't Be BAD iF I ReceiveD Gifts this EARLY.
HINT, HINT.

DIVINE COMEDY

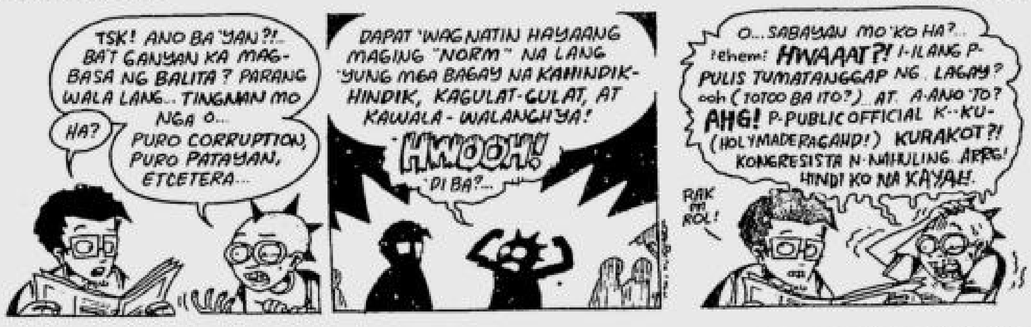
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NAFI-FEEL KO NA MALAPIT NA SYANG IBIGAY SA AKIN NI LORD....
?

SA EDAD NA 74, HINIHINTAY PA RIN NI LOLA MEMAY ANG PAGDATING NI "MR. RIGHT"

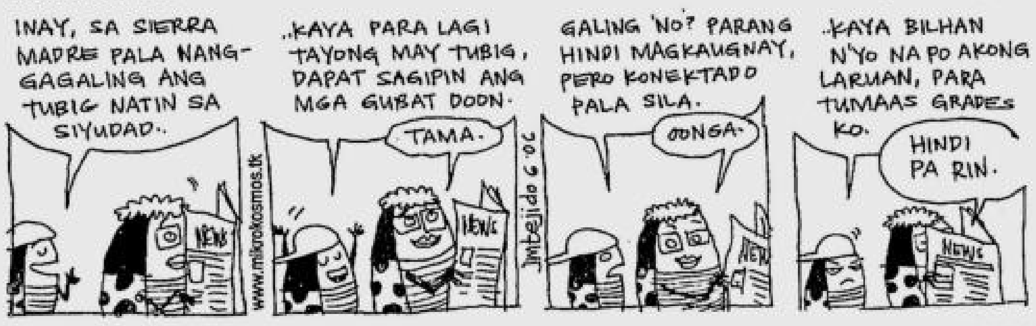
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! ANO BA 'YAN?!.. BA'T GANYAN KA MAG-BASA NG BALITA? PARANG WALA LANG.. TINGNAN MO NGA O...
HA?
PURO CORRUPTION, PURO PATAYAN, ETCETERA...
DAPAT 'WAG NATIN HAYAANG MAGING "NORM" NA LANG 'YUNG MGA BAGAY NA KAHINDIK-HINDIK, KAGULAT-GULAT, AT KAWALA-WALANGHYA!
HWOOH!
DI BA?...
O... SABAYAN MO 'KO HA?.. !ehem! HWAAAT?! I-ILANG P-PULIS TUMATANGGAP NG LAGAY? ooh (TOTOO BA ITO?) AT A-ANO 'TO? AHG! P-PUBLIC OFFICIAL K-KU-(HOLYMADERAGAHD!) KURAKOT?! KONGRESISTA N-NAHULING ARRG! HINDI KO NA KAYAH!
RAK EN ROL!

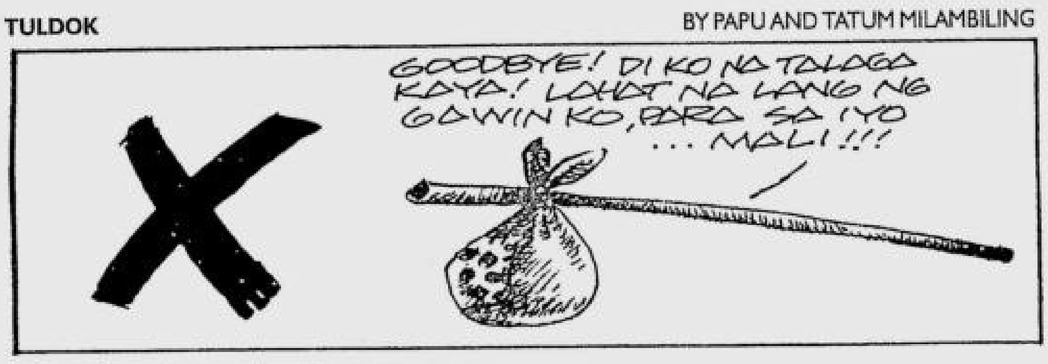
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, SA SIERRA MADRE PALA NANGGAGALING ANG TUBIG NATIN SA SIYUDAD..
..KAYA PARA LAGI TAYONG MAY TUBIG, DAPAT SAGIPIN ANG MGA GUBAT DOON.
TAMA.
GALING 'NO? PARANG HINDI MAGKAUGNAY, PERO KONEKTADO PALA SILA.
OONGA.
..KAYA BILHAN N'YO NA PO AKONG LARUAN, PARA TUMAAS GRADES KO.
HINDI PA RIN.
NEWS
www.mikrokosmos.tk
JmTejido 6.06

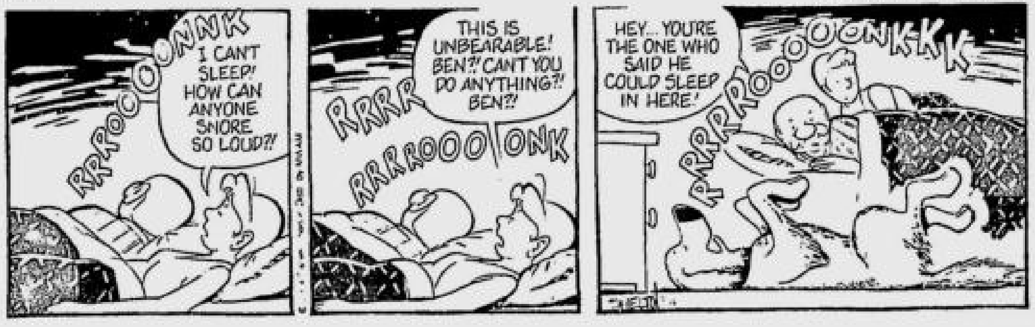
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GOODBYE! DI KO NA TALAGA KAYA! LAHAT NA LANG NG GAWIN KO, PARA SA IYO ... MALI!!!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


RRROOOONNK
I CAN'T SLEEP! HOW CAN ANYONE SNORE SO LOUD?!
THIS IS UNBEARABLE! BEN?! CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING?! BEN?!
RRRR
RRRROOOONK
HEY... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID HE COULD SLEEP IN HERE!
RRRRROOOOONKKK
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					18					■	19			
20			■	21				■	22	23				
■	■	■	24				■	25				■	■	■
26	27	28				■	29					30	31	32
33					■	34				■	35			
36				■	37					■	38			
39				■	40				■	41				
42				43				■	44					
■	■	■	45				■	46				■	■	■
47	48	49				■	50				■	51	52	53
54				■	55	56					57			
58				■	59				■	60				
61				■	62				■	63				

By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

7/10/06

ACROSS

1 Bottomless pit
6 Ship's pole
10 Umps' kin
14 Dream time
15 Bring on board
16 Lotion ingredient
17 Sign on a door, perhaps
19 Melancholy
20 Calendar abbr.
21 Half a golf course
22 Set sail
24 Fateful dates
25 Rani's garment
26 Teatime treats
29 Birthright
33 Inclined trough
34 Gardener's tools
35 Legal bargain
36 Profane utterance
37 "La __ Nikita"
38 Saucers without cups?
39 Ash or apple
40 Engenders wrath
41 Sneeringly derogatory
42 Wizard
44 Roast hosts
45 Eurasian deer
46 God of Memphis
47 Tenor Enrico
50 Staffs
51 Logger's tool
54 Downfall
55 Bet on instinct
58 __ the Red
59 That __ hay!
60 Loan sharking
61 Dry streambed
62 Ukrainian city
63 Calls to the phone

DOWN

1 Beginning on
2 Make less clear
3 Himalayan bigfoot
4 TV unit
5 Metrical foot
6 Gives a wide berth to
7 Yearn (for)
8 Trajectory
9 Practice a play
10 Blow to the back of the neck
11 Scat singer Fitzgerald
12 Two squared
13 Look for
18 "sex, __, & videotape"
23 Medical pic
24 When the chips are down
25 Appears
26 Dundee populace
27 "Chico and the Man" co-star
28 External
29 "Gulf Stream" painter
30 Caine's cockney
31 Crystal-lined rock
32 Lets up
34 Toast opener
37 Girasol
41 Break to bits
43 Goddess of the dawn
44 Peak in Sicily
46 $ for viewing
47 Shipmates
48 Nimbus
49 Muckraker Jacob
50 Pablo's hand
51 Cozy
52 Pasture measure
53 Wherefores' partners
56 Actress Tyler
57 Springsteen's birthplace?

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	A	T	T	L	E	■	C	A	R	A	C	A	S
E	X	P	I	R	E	D	■	F	R	E	M	O	N	T
A	G	E	L	O	N	G	■	L	U	C	I	A	N	O
M	I	S	T	U	N	E	D	■	■	A	D	L	E	R
■	■	■	■	P	Y	R	I	T	E	S	■	I	B	M
M	I	S	S	E	S	■	C	E	N	T	■	T	R	I
A	N	T	I	S	■	S	T	E	T	S	■	I	O	N
I	T	A	L	■	L	E	A	N	S	■	C	O	N	E
N	O	L	■	C	O	A	T	S	■	R	E	N	T	S
F	L	A	■	O	M	N	I	■	S	E	N	S	E	S
R	E	G	■	R	F	S	N	A	P	S	■	■	■	■
A	R	M	O	R	■	■	G	L	A	C	I	A	T	E
M	A	I	L	E	R	S	■	E	R	A	S	M	U	S
E	N	T	I	C	E	S	■	R	E	L	I	A	N	T
S	T	E	N	T	O	R	■	T	R	E	S	S	E	S

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7/10/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You re careful, patient and observant. Yet you're also very much your own thinker about things. You come to your own conclusions. You're not afraid to march out of step with society. Beauty stirs your soul. You love nature and the arts. Increased solitude this year will help you to learn or discover something valuable to you.
Birthdate of: Jessica Simpson, singer; Arlo Guthrie, singer; Jake LaMotta, boxer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's Full Moon is a bit of a handful for your sign You might find discussions with parents and family members to be challenging or stressful. Patience is your only alternative.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be careful in everything you say and do today. Today's Full Moon might even make you slightly accident-prone. It creates tension and haste in speech and transportation

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Financial matters might come to a head today. However, you're not sure what to put first—your own financial interests or those of others

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel each Full Moon, but today's Full Moon in particular, directly opposes your sign. (Yikes!) Be extra-patient with partners and close friends

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Problems at work might intensify now, especially with coworkers and important clients or customers. Fortunately, in 48 hours these problems will greatly diminish. (Whew.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If your dealings with groups, friends and romantic connections are stressful today, this is because of the Full Moon energy. It will pass in 24 hours. (Hold your tongue.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This Full Moon is stressful for your sign. Fortunately, the Full Moon energy lasts only 24 hours. Avoid conflict with parents, bosses and authority figures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today, it's hard to know how far you can push the sides of the envelope. Travel and educational plans look intriguing, yet you're doubtful about something. By the end of the week, you'll know what to do

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Matters related to shared property or the responsibilities you have for others could be stressed, but they also might finally be resolved. Avoid important decisions today

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today's Full Moon is in your sign. This makes you more emotional than usual, and it tests your conversations with close friends and partners Try to be diplomatic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Situations at work could be stressful because of today's Full Moon. Since you know this harsh energy is temporary, just bide your time when dealing with others

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Parents must be patient and vigilant with children today. Everyone can feel the increased energy of the Full Moon. This can also bring added stress to professional sports and romance.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			8		3			
		4	9	7		2		
1	5						7	3
6				8			2	4
	4		2		9		1	
7	2			5				9
8	1						5	6
		6		2	1	9		
			7		8			

Difficulty Level ★

7/10

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	2	8	1	5	3	9	4	6
4	1	3	7	6	9	5	8	2
6	5	9	4	8	2	1	3	7
1	8	2	6	3	7	4	9	5
9	3	4	8	2	5	6	7	1
5	7	6	9	1	4	8	2	3
8	4	5	3	7	1	2	6	9
2	9	7	5	4	6	3	1	8
3	6	1	2	9	8	7	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

HIYAS HILA CONCERT

More opera productions this season

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

FROM WHAT WE CAN glean, there is an upsurge of opera (or opera-related activities) in Manila's otherwise moribund opera front.

From the UP College of Music came a twin-bill of Mozart's "The Impresario" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci" early this month. On July 12-22, "Masterclass" will open at the RCBC Hall, courtesy of the Philippine Opera Company which announced the play (inspired by Maria Callas's Juilliard masterclass) as part of an "opera" season. The same company will mount "Opera Now" July 29 and among the talents recruited is the Berlin-based (and brand new mother) Andion Fernandez. Here's hoping the production will be high on music and singing and play down the fashion side. Last year, no amount of production values could hide the fact that some singers are better off hidden in the chorus line.

From Singapore, three outstanding Filipino singers are in the lead roles of the Singapore Lyric Opera production of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" at the Esplanade Theater. They are baritone Andrew Fernando (as Count Almaviva), Rachelle Gerodias (as Susanna) and tenor Lemuel de la Cruz (as Don Basilio). Director is David Edwards who has done productions at London's Covent Garden and La Scala di Milan. Play dates are July 14, 15 and 17. (For package tour arrangement for this Singapore Opera treat, call 9468252 and 7261567, or text 0918-XINTALA).

Come late September, the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music will also mount Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" with Gerodias, De la Cruz and Fernando in the lead roles. Dean Raul Sunico is in the thick of preparations and we hope the public and private sectors would lend their support to these once-in-a-blue-moon cultural endeavors.

The most admirable part of the UP twin-bill production is that it made use of the services of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra with two conductors alternating: Nonoy Diestro for Leoncavallo's opera and Michi Martinez for Mozart's. With just a basic stage set and minimal production and costume design, the twin-bill managed to give opera-starved audiences an appealing appetizer and a passable main course. The spoken parts for "The Impresario" was in English and for the most part, the singing parts were in German. Tenor Raymond Leslie Diaz in the title role managed to essay the role of the harassed impresario. The battle of the divas (played by Mary Anne Lanuzo as Madam Goldentrill and Katrina Saporsantos as Madam Silverpeal) was on the whole entertaining with subtle amusement thrown on the side (the scene reminded me of the Paco Park engagement of sopranos Luz Morete and Andion Fernandez in one setting with mentor Fides Cuyugan Asensio in the audience). The sopranos were just right for the parts and Saporsantos showed off her golden Mozart line to good advantage. Conductor Martinez and the PPO lent excellent support. As for Pagliacci, the most admirable part was conductor Nonoy Diestro and the PPO giving superb ensemble support to both the soloists and the chorus. Baritone Lionel Guico as Tonio sang a fairly good Prologo, Camille Lopez as Nedda was vocally superb for the part and Greg Abelardo de Leon was fairly engaging as Silvio. Tenor Ramon Acoymo managed to elicit pathos in the signature aria, "Veste la giubba" with palpable hint of jealousy and despair. But many in the audience missed the ironic laughter in the aria. On the whole, it was a good showcase of what opera can offer, and I am sure with better budget and better logistics, a grand production is in the offing.

HANNA Lyn Tan, pianist

NATIONAL Artist for Music Antonino Buenaventura with legendary conductor Herbert von Karajan during the latter's Manila visit in 1957

Director Tony Espejo was imaginative enough to make do with the bare set and Joey Nombres provided dramatic lighting.

Here and there

Recommended reading for music lovers is the book, "The Life and Music of Col. Antonino Buenaventura," written by his granddaughter Ma. Beatriz Buenaventura Salipsip. The life of the National Artist for Music is told from a family member's point of view, and it is absorbing reading as readers find out that everything about this composer's life revolved around music. Copies of this book is available at the CCP Gift Shop.

***

Hiyas Hila, another outstanding product of the Philippine High School for the Arts and now pursuing a doctoral degree at the School of Music of the University of Minnesota, is all set for a homecoming concert Aug. 11 at the Philamlife Theater. It is solo program in the first part (Beethoven's 32 Variations in C Minor and Schubert's Sonata in A Minor, Op. 42) and orchestral program in the last half (Mozart's Concerto in A Major, K 488) with Hiyas as soloist of the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arturo Molina. Hila is a winner of the university's concerto competition and first prize winner of the annual scholarship competition of the Schubert Club of Minnesota. For tickets, please call 9007023 or text 0906-5104270.

***

Young Hannah Lyn Tan, student of pianist Mary Anne Espina, will have a solo recital at the Philamlife Theater July 16, 4:30 p.m. Program: Bach's Prelude and Fugue in F Minor, Mozart's Sonata in D Major, No. 9, Debussy's Prelude from Suite pour le piano, Khachaturian's Toccata, Chino Toledo's Layered Images and Chopin's Scherzo in C Sharp Minor, Op, 39. For tickets, call 9007023 or text 0906-5104270.

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Tickets to the July 24 Oliver Salonga recital in Bacolod City are available at the Cecile Music Center (tel. 4320631) and Byline (0917-8058501). Also call 0921-3405200 c/o Johna. Early discount available; call 0906-5104270.

LIESL Batucan and Niccolo Manahan thinking about their marriage in the "Cantata for a Wedding" in the Musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"

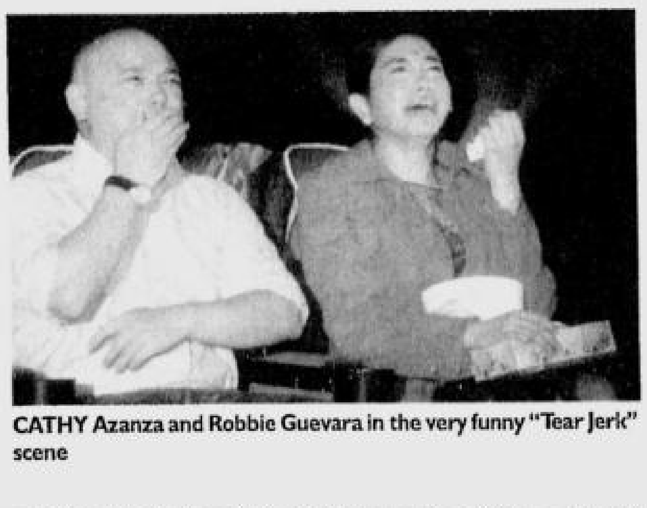
Rep restages romantic musical

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES IS re-staging the hit musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" July 22, 8 p.m., at Onstage! Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Described as Broadway's answer to everything you wanted to know about love, dating and relationships, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" stars four leading Rep veterans—Cathy Azanza, Liesl Batucan, Robbie Guevara and Niccolo Manahan—who portray more than 60 roles in this two-hour rollicking revue of sketches and musical numbers.

Act I explores the journey from dating to marriage, while Act II reveals the agonies and triumphs of in-laws and newborns, trips in the family car and looking for love after the death of a spouse.

Audiences in Cebu will also get to experience "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" July 28, 8 p.m., at the SM Cinema 2, SM City-Cebu. Call 8919999 for the Manila show, and Little Boy Productions at 0917-8155794 for the Cebu show.


CATHY Azanza and Robbie Guevara in the very funny "Tear Jerk" scene

Writer Abad graces Rome arts festival

UP UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR EMERITUS Gemino H. Abad, renowned Filipino poet and literary scholar, has been invited by Allegorein Rome's cultural association as one of the featured poets for the third Mediterranea Intercontinental Festival of Literature and Arts to be held in Rome July 10-26.

Abad will read his poems with other poets in the town of Cerveteri and the University of Rome La Sapienza. His poem, "The Pope Expels Certain Saints," will be exhibited in a Roman public square with other poets' works and included in an anthology of poems on Rome. He will also deliver a public lecture at the University of Rome La Sapienza.'

He is the only Filipino invited to the cultural event, which will gather poets, writers and artists from the Mediterranean nations, as well as writers who, while they may not be Mediterranean, "recognize themselves ideally and expressively in the dialogical and multicultural values of a common Mediterranean identity."

Poets will meet in Rome, Ladispoli, Cerveteri, Santa Marinella, and in other towns of the Latium Region and interact with theater, music and dance artists "to express in different ways the same language of freedom, the opening to a pluralistic world, the fight against exploitation, war and terrorism." The culminating activity will be a "poetry meeting."

GEMINO Abad

Allegorein is presided over by professor and critic Filippo Bettini. The association conceived of and organized the event in collaboration with the Latium Region, Link Campus University of Malta's Mediterranean Cultural and Literature Centre, the Athenaeum Centre University of Rome La Sapienza, and the University of Rome La Sapienza. The festival is being promoted by the Province of Rome.

Mediterranea aims to showcase promoting the idea of a "Mediterranean Europe," which includes countries and cultures of other continents facing the Mediterranean Sea (Africa and Asia). At the same time, it aims to open the Mediterranean viewpoint to cultures far from the Sea but which share common values with the Mediterranean civilization. The festival also covers cinema, the visual arts and video.

Booklover wins dream prize

WHEN ESTHER ABAD FOUND OUT SHE won the PowerBooks 100 Book Spree, her kids immediately joked that either the specialty store was getting tired of her constant presence or that God must have noted her love of books and decided to throw in a hundred more her way. In any case, Esther felt that it was a dream come true.

And nobody was more deserving than this certified bibliophile who has finally completed her book choices, all 100 of them. Spanning different genres, Esther's picks for her grand prize win included "Architecture in the 20th Century," "City Interiors," "God Created the Integers," "Great Escapes," "The Da Vinci Code," "Improving Employee Performance," "Le Cordon Bleu Quick & Light" and "Total Chinese Learning."

The architect (she works at W.B. Coscolluela and Associates), interior designer and mom of three cites her grandmother as the person from whom she got her passion for reading.

After many years of reading and buying her favorite titles, Esther has built an impressive book collection which she estimates to be worth over P500,000. She calls her home in Essensa at The Fort a "mini PowerBooks."

CERTIFIED bookworm Esther Abad won 100 titles of her choice in the PowerBooks 100 Book Spree Raffle.

Her kids got bitten by the reading bug as well, "so every one in the family wears eyeglasses because we normally read late into the night." She is exceedingly happy about having a reading family, although she advises her kids on choosing their books carefully and ensuring the appropriateness of the content.

Books for Esther are wonderful tools for education. "I do not think that I'm such a smart person, that's why I keep reading. You can gain a lot of knowledge from books. My father only finished second grade but never stopped reading. Henry Sy, who only finished Grade 6 continued to read and learn. Well, just look at him now."

PowerBooks Specialty Store is a complete one-stop bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428 to 29), SM Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25), Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/ 5243448), and Mall of Asia (5560244).

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Angelica Panganiban, Bianca Gonzalez as cover girls

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YOUNG ACTRESS ANGELICA PANGANIBAN is the first cover girl of Maxim Philippines edition.

The edition is now on its second printing after the first copies sold out quickly, according to ABS-CBN Publishing, publisher of Maxim Philippines.

Meanwhile, Adboard, the advertising industry's self-regulation body, rejected for a second time a proposed Bench-Maxim billboard featuring the cover photo taken by Victor Labrador, saying the design was "provocative." ABS-CBN Publishing said it would submit the design for the third time this week, using a different layout.

Maxim is the world's biggest men's magazine, with a worldwide readership of 20 million and 32 editions in 46 countries. The Philippine edition is the 31st.

Maxim is ABS-CBN Publishing's first franchise title.

Meanwhile, television host Bianca Gonzalez talks about life after Pinoy Big Brother in Metro Magazine's July issue.

"I was in the car and he [boyfriend Lino Cayetano] was at the gate and we were both crying," she recounts. "Maybe it's God's way of reminding us that things aren't always happy and easy. That we still need Him and can't face things alone."

Also in the issue is the "New Dress Code"—what to wear at work, whether you're job is corporate or creative—and the latest jewelry collections.

Graphic launches essay contest

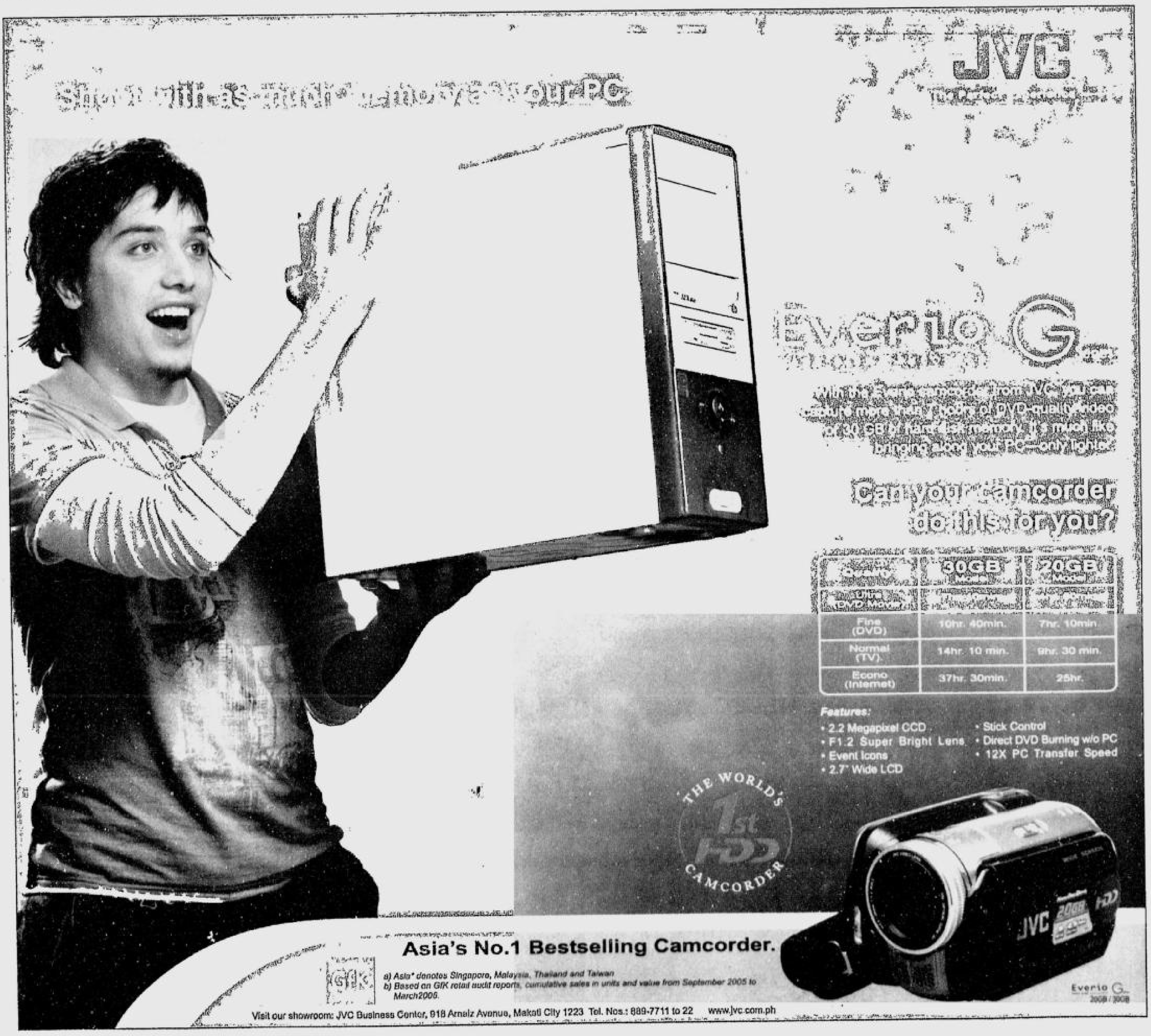
PHILIPPINE GRAPHIC NEWS WEEKLY Magazine and the Junior Chamber International Philippines or Philippine Jaycees launched recently the Philippine Graphic-Philippine Jaycees National Essay Writing Contest.

Signing the agreement were Benjamin V. Ramos, president of Philippine Graphic Publications Inc., and Ismael P. Penado, national president of the Philippine Jaycees.

The contest kicks off this month and has three categories—high school, college and professional. At stake are P 50,000, P 30,000, and P20,000 for the the top three winners. Philippine Graphic executive editor Adrian Cristobal will head the board of judges. Interested parties may get the contest rules and entry forms from the weekly issues of Philippine Graphic and the Monday issues of Business Mirror newspaper.

The contest will also sponsor a national seminar on writing the essay, or commonly known today in literary circles as creative nonfiction, in eight cities nationwide soon.

Call 8140134 loc. 115 (look for Louie Jon Sanchez or Eloisa Laquian). Log on to graphicjayceesessay.blogspot.com for details.



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